

*Francis Marion*  
**View**

# INTO AFRICA

**Can FMU alum  
Matt Bonds change the  
world with research?**







## From the President

Friends,

It is in the very nature of a university or a college such as Francis Marion to touch the lives of the people who pass through our halls. We become attached to them, and like doting parents and sympathetic siblings everywhere, we revel in their accomplishments and celebrate their achievements.

This edition of The VIEW drives home that point. Turn through the pages and you'll discover a trove of success stories from across our generations. It's like leafing through a photo album at Christmas.

There's our recent graduate Evrik Gary, a basketball star who also excelled in the classroom. Now this combination is not unusual at Francis Marion, where so many of our athletes are scholars, too. But Evrik's basketball career was so exceptional -- he finished as the second-leading scorer in school history -- and he has matched those athletic accomplishments with his academic accomplishments, both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student.

Alumnus Matt Bonds' story will stir the heart of any Patriot. Less than two decades after graduating from FMU, he's in the midst of a career that accommodates his professional career and his humanitarian commitment. I suspect this will not be the last time we hear big news from Matt.

There is also news about Andrew Stout and the other FMU alumni who are designing and operating the new Florence museum, about the success of winemaker Jim Wilford, another FMU grad, and a sampling of the accomplishments of our distinguished faculty.

And finally there is a farewell to say to retiring Professor Bill Ramsey, a brilliant poet who taught and wrote in the English department for the past 26 years. In this retrospective, Bill is already reminiscing about those days when electricity snapped through his classrooms and students and teacher became as one, learning from each other and, better still, learning how to learn.

It sounds as if Bill misses us already.

No surprise there. We miss him, too.

That's how it is with your family.

See you soon,

Dr. Fred Carter, President

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# View

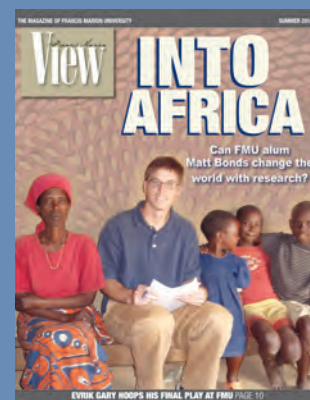
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About the Cover: Matt Bonds sits with a Rwandan Family while conducting a survey.

Photo courtesy of Matt Bonds.





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# Into Africa

*FMU grad Matt Bonds ('98) is using the power of academic research to fight hunger and disease in some of the world's poorest countries*

BY TUCKER MITCHELL

Shortly after Matt Bonds ('98) turned 30, and just a few years after completing his second doctoral degree, he grabbed his girlfriend and moved to Rwanda where they bought some land and built a house out of bricks made right on the site.

You know, just like most 30-somethings do.

Bonds described the event very matter-of-factly in a recent conversation before a wave of normalcy swept briefly over him.

"It was kind of wild," says Bonds. "There were a few other researchers (westerners) there but

not many. We made the bricks for our house from the dirt right beside it. We didn't actually do that ourselves, of course, but we supervised the crews we were paying to do it. And then, you



Bonds

know, there we were, living in our house in Rwanda."

Life moves along like that for Bonds, who has packed a lifetime and a world of experience into the 16 years since he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Francis Marion University in 1998, with a degree in Economics. He has since obtained two doctorates from the University of Georgia, one in Economics and one in Ecology; earned a fellowship to the prestigious Earth Institute in New York; been appointed as a Research Associate at Harvard Medical

School's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine; and assumed the directorship of PIVOT, a non-governmental organization (NGO) charged with nothing less than revolutionizing healthcare delivery in Madagascar, one of the poorest nations on Earth.

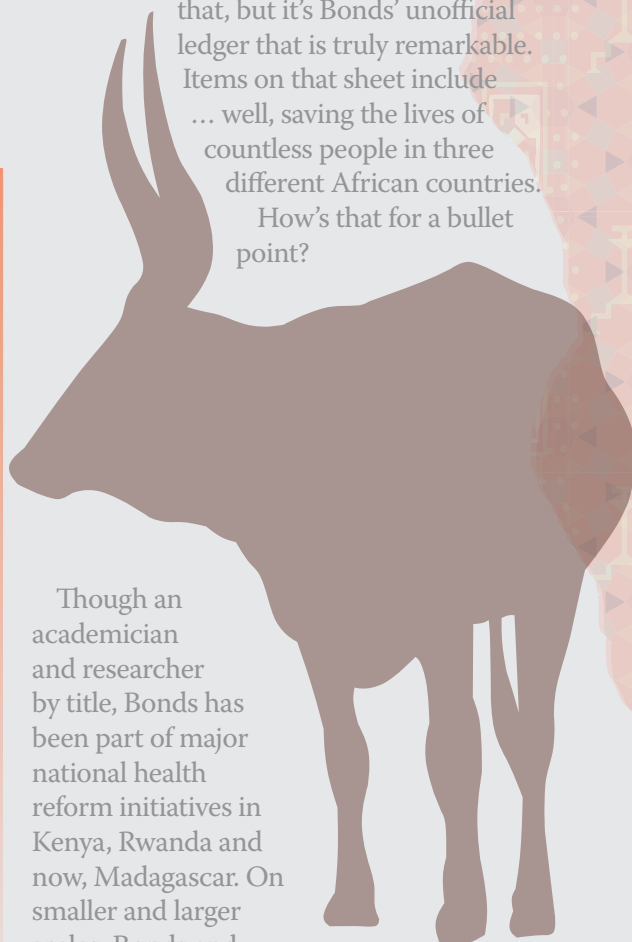
There is more, much more, to the official resume than that, but it's Bonds' unofficial ledger that is truly remarkable.

Items on that sheet include ... well, saving the lives of countless people in three different African countries.

How's that for a bullet point?

## THE LONG VIEW

Though an academician and researcher by title, Bonds has been part of major national health reform initiatives in Kenya, Rwanda and now, Madagascar. On smaller and larger scales, Bonds and





company have reversed depressing mortality trends and brought a little more sanity, and a little more humanity, to the world.

The accomplishment is almost beyond belief, and Bonds winces a bit as the subject of his good works is broached. He has seen far greater sacrifice amongst the people he studied (and helped) and calls it a privilege to have worked alongside them.

"Rwanda," says Bonds, "is just filled with heroes. You see them every day."

While ducking saintly accolades, Bonds does acknowledge a singular devotion to his chosen profession. He opted to study some of the world's great problems – poverty, disease, and inequity – through the special multiple lens of an economist who is also an ecologist, who is fast becoming one of the world's experts on Third World healthcare delivery.

Having committed his life to this specialized and critically important research, Bonds says that intellectually there is no real choice other than to live it to the fullest. Researchers should live their work, which to him means tackling real problems in real places.

And while they're there, they should do more than just take notes.

"I mean I'm in this place where people are dealing with all these problems, just doing great things on a daily basis," says Bonds. "Am I going to just stand there and do nothing?"

The answer for Bonds is, of course, "No."

Surveying his work, Bonds says, "I've tried to make myself of some use. I mean, it's the decent thing to do, isn't it?"

And the answer to that is, of course, "Yes."

## NURTURING PROFS

Bonds was an excellent student at a superb private school in his native Baltimore. His path from there to Francis Marion is a little fuzzy. It certainly included the fact that he was showered with scholarships upon applying to FMU, and it didn't hurt,

says Bonds, that he has family in Georgia.

"FMU accepted me, it was affordable and it seemed like an intriguing change of scenery," says Bonds. "It turned out to be a pretty good spot for me."

A natural student and a talented young person like Bonds might have found a "good spot" somewhere else, but there's no doubt that FMU provided him with an unusually nurturing and supportive environment. Professors in multiple departments mentored him and helped him find avenues to challenge his intellect and sate his curiosity. Whether they meant to or not, they also provided superb role models for the man, and the researcher, that Bonds was going to be.

"My time (at FMU) ended up meaning quite a lot to me and that sense is only reinforced over time," says Bonds. "I need to be a bit careful here about being unnecessarily hyperbolic. But the truth is that I was very affected by the sense of being around so many people (faculty) who seemed so singularly committed to their fields.

"Even now, in the midst of operating in a more high-profile academic environment," says Bonds, "I take a lot of solace in knowing how decentralized knowledge really is, and how much unfettered passion and commitment is in universities of different shapes and colors throughout the country."

Bonds says that, ironically, one of his best memories of FMU came just as he was about to leave it.

Frustrated that he couldn't be involved in a research project his freshman year, the ever-brash Bonds mentioned to Dr. Barry O'Brien, dean of the business school, that he was thinking about transferring. O'Brien quickly recruited professors Jeff Pompe and Jim Rinhart to find some work for young Bonds to do.

"His (O'Brien's) response was wonderfully proactive," says Bonds. "He got me more challenged and engaged by connecting me with other

faculty. That experience repeated itself over and over throughout my four years. I'd voice an interest or a concern and some faculty member mobilized."

## 'A POT STIRRER'

Travis Knowles, an assistant professor of biology, was among those made mobile on Bonds' behalf. The two connected through FMU's student ecology club early on. Bonds went on to take a number of biology courses from Knowles and others in that department, even though he was majoring in a seemingly unrelated field. He eventually wound up accompanying Knowles on his then regular trip to the jungles of Costa Rica (the precursor to FMU's Wildsumaco Station in Ecuador).

Looking back, Knowles believes that was a seminal event on Bonds' path.

"Matt went on that trip, and even though he was an economics major, he was fascinated by bio-diversity and field biology," says Knowles. "Of course, it was obvious from the first time I met him that he was a very deep thinker, especially for someone that age. I think it goes without saying he was an excellent student, but more than that, he was a student who always wanted to know more. He didn't want to learn just what was in the class."

Bonds' enjoyed a rich academic and student life at FMU. He belonged to a number of student organizations and volunteered for the local Habitat for Humanity chapter as well (learning some skills that would come in handy while setting up housekeeping in Rwanda a few years later). Knowles recalls that Bonds' intellectual curiosity and willingness to probe and push was constantly on display.

"He was always a pot stirrer," says Knowles. "He'd get the view of the business department on something, like natural resources, and then come tell us in biology what they said. Then, he'd go back to econ or business and tell them what we said! Later, we started a faculty-student book

discussion group and he asked me for a suggestion. I suggested Ed Wilson's *Diversity of Life* and that, with Matt's help, started a pretty good, ongoing discussion between biology and economics. Matt enriched his academic life, but he enriched the academic life of the university as well. That's what students ought to do."

Knowles' mentorship made quite an impression on Bonds. Interestingly, given that Bonds has since been exposed to world-renown researchers, thinkers, academicians and philanthropists, he still considers Knowles among the best examples of what he is trying to do with his life, both academic and otherwise.

"I still see Travis Knowles as the gold standard in terms of moral and intellectual integrity," says Bonds. "When I think about the role of money in our personal lives, and on a number of other questions, I still often return to the question 'what would Travis do?'"

## SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

Bonds' career had no sure focus when he began his fellowship with the Earth Institute, but that quickly changed. Working with Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, the institute's founder, and the legendary Dr. Paul Farmer (current head of the World Bank), Bonds' eyes were opened to both the academic and humanitarian possibilities in his chosen field.

For example, one of Sachs' Kenyan missions focused on improving school attendance and test scores in a particular area. If kids didn't attend school, they wouldn't do as well on the tests and would be less likely to advance their lives, and that of their families. But – and this is really the key to what Matt Bonds is now up to – almost every problem has multiple facets. The kids were missing school, as it turned out, because they were sick, frequently because of intestinal worms. Sachs created a blind study, giving some kids a placebo and some a very inexpensive de-worming pill on a regular basis. The attendance and the test scores of the kids

receiving the real medicine shot up.

De-worming pills are now a regular feature of the "curriculum" at the school.

Bonds learned quickly. While working with Farmer in Rwanda, where he became part of the Partners in Health organization, he helped craft a similarly simple-but-elegant solution to an equally vexing problem.

Partners in Health was working on the Earth Institutes' Millennium Village project in the Mayange village cluster near Kigali, Rwanda. PIH amped up the resources at the Mayange health clinic, increasing staffing and beefing up the cache of drugs. But the rate of utilization of the clinic barely moved. Indeed, it remained below the utilization rates of two other similar Rwandan clinics in neighboring districts that had not seen a similar infusion of resources.

What gives, PIH leaders wondered. Bonds led a team that conducted a fast study to find some answers. The study focused on barriers to healthcare in the area. A critical finding dealt with the cost of health insurance. Realizing that healthcare

cost and household wealth in general, correlated with poor utilization, PIH found resources to help subsidize the insurance cost. The organization also waived the co-pay at its clinic.

"And utilization tripled within a week," says Bonds. "Now, keep in mind that health insurance was \$2 per year and the co-pay was only

40 cents per visit. But those seemingly small fees amounted to major barriers for accessing health care.

"This is not 'over-use,'" says Bonds. "The poor don't over-use health in Africa. With the range of deadly infections, (the people in Rwanda) should be going to the health center 3-4 times per year. But there continues to be a range of barriers to access, such as geographic distance.

We'll deal with that some other way. But

these are the kinds of basic questions we want to answer to determine how to reach the most vulnerable."

Having wet his feet in Kenya and Rwanda, Bonds is now moving on to Madagascar where he has signed on with the PIVOT organization, an NGO formed by philanthropists Jim and Robin Herrnstein and aimed



Dr. Matt Bonds, with a friend, in Rwanda.

Photo courtesy of Matt Bonds.



## A Note from Matt

“The real story is in the lives of the people we work with. Rwanda, for example, is full of heroes. The country has been rising from the ashes of the genocide over the past 20 years, and every single Rwandan continues to grapple with the aftermath of that. The genocide was executed throughout the country, and it was ethnic Hutus killing ethnic Tutsis that lived in the same villages. So, to this day, victims live next to the people that killed their families. The mechanism that people embrace to move beyond this tragedy is forgiveness. It’s both a spiritual necessity and a practical one. I had the privilege of living and working side by side (with) people who are grappling with these kinds of challenges. And now, I mostly live in the comfort of my little neighborhood in a corner of Boston, while our staff in Madagascar is working tirelessly in the field with patients who are barely holding on to their lives. I don’t feel guilty about this. I feel fortunate.”

- MATT BONDS

at building a system of universal healthcare delivery in poverty-stricken Madagascar.

The Herrnsteins began the exploration of Rwandan problems through a connection to an existing U.S.-based research station studying a particular type of monkey. The Herrnsteins then made a connection to Bonds through Farmer, Sachs and others because of a special interest on their part. Scientists themselves – before building a successful and lucrative hedge fund business, the Herrnsteins were both astrophysicists – they wanted to know to what extent real scientific research could drive the implementation of real world healthcare/economic development projects. They were told that Matt Bonds was the man to answer that question.

Bonds’ advice was to look to PIH in Rwanda and Kenya, but he eventually helped engineer a collaboration between a major healthcare initiative and the monkey lab that was at the heart of the project. The lab, staffed by researchers from Stony Brook University, will play off its monkey wash to investigate infectious diseases that clearly play a role in depressing Madagascar’s economy and which tax its healthcare system.

Bonds says the Madagascar project is particularly energizing because, academically, there’s an opportunity to produce a comprehensive study before starting the project; and pragmatically, because there is an opportunity to effect change across an entire country.

To date, remember, he’s “merely” been part of healthcare reform on a regional scale.

Bonds says the work of PIH in Rwanda helped slice the child mortality rate from 23 percent to under 10 percent in just 10 years. It was a dramatic step, “but that was only in one district (of Rwanda). Here (in Madagascar) we have the chance to do something nationwide.”

It will be no easy task, says Bonds. Madagascar is considerably poorer than Rwanda, the land of the taxing 40-cent co-pay.

### WHAT’S IN A NAME?

Bonds expects to be at work in Madagascar for years to come. But he does not expect his work to end there, nor to be focused just there. He is still involved with projects in other African nations – for instance, he is part owner of a business that has already purchased land and is trying to bring U.S.-style housing

subdivisions to Rwanda – and expects more to follow.

That makes for an interesting life, but also a challenging one.

Bonds and his wife Molly Norton – that’s the girl he dragged off to the brick hut in Rwanda seven years ago – now have a young son. The couple lives outside of Boston about half the year and in Africa about half the year.

For now, those fractions are further divided: Molly came back to the U.S. to deliver the baby, and right now it’s just Matt who’s in Africa.

But that isn’t the long-term plan.

Matt and Molly plan to raise their son wherever Matt’s research leads them. In other words, their son will live the life, too.

To prepare him for what lies ahead, mom and dad took special care with his name. They called him Maxwell Wallace Bonds.

It’s the middle name that’s significant. It’s borrowed from the renowned (but often overshadowed) evolution pioneer Alfred Russel Wallace, a British biologist and explorer who spent his life traipsing across the wilds of what we now call the third world, studying his chosen field and comparing notes with a fellow named Darwin.

Yes, Maxwell Wallace Bonds’ namesake lived the life, too.

That says a lot about who Matt Bonds is and the way he thinks about his chosen profession – no, make that his chosen life.

“You’re going to study all this and you’re writing all these things down and you’re not going to live it?” asks Bonds. “I don’t think so. There is a pretty good legacy for that in some of my fields. Think of Darwin (Wallace’s collaborator and competitor) and of Alfred Wallace. You have to be committed to this. It does become your life and that’s good.” ☺

*Tucker Mitchell is the Executive Director of Public Affairs at FMU.*

Matt Bonds on the water in Rwanda.

Photo courtesy of Matt Bonds.



# Evrik's next goal?

## The NBA

BY MICHAEL HAWKINS ('85)

PHOTO BY: REBECCA J. DUCKER

**F**rancis Marion said goodbye to one of the best men's basketball players in school history this spring when Evrik Gary played his last collegiate game.

The Patriot family also bid farewell to one of its very best people.

Gary, a Camden native, finished his FMU basketball career with a bang. The 6-3 guard averaged 31.6 points per game over the season's last five games, better than 20 points per game for the year, and wound up second on the school's all-time scoring list.

That's an impressive legacy, but what makes Gary more remarkable, and his departure still more melancholy for Patriot fans, is that he left similar marks all across the FMU campus. Those that know him best say Gary was just as impressive in the classroom and as a member of the student body as he was on the basketball court.

FMU Men's Basketball Coach Gary Edwards says he'd be "hard pressed to think of a finer young man. (Evrik) has been a wonderful role model for young students and athletes, and an exemplary

ambassador for Francis Marion University."

Says Dr. Barry O'Brien, dean of FMU's School of Business, "As good a basketball player as Evrik is, and he's a good one, he's a better person and a student. He just is."

O'Brien, a former basketball player himself, knows Gary well because Gary majored in business at FMU.

### TIME WELL SPENT

The fact that Gary is well-rounded makes for a compelling narrative, but it's worked well for him, too. His academic and athletic careers have meshed in surprising ways.

For instance, the decision to red-shirt Gary – meaning, to have him sit out his first year at FMU without using one of his four years of eligibility – allowed him to not only grow (literally) as a basketball player but to pick up some additional schooling as well. Gary earned his undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Business Administration, in four years. He spent the past school year working on his Masters in Business Administration. He's not far from

finishing it, although that pursuit will have to wait while Gary pursues what, is for now, his first love: a career in professional basketball.

Gary says the red-shirt decision was a good one, its utility becoming increasingly apparent in hindsight.

"Red-shirting my freshman year was a wise decision, as I was not physically ready for the college game," Gary says. "I came to Francis Marion weighing 145 pounds. My first year, I gained 10 pounds, but still needed to add more weight and strength. Now I am at 170 pounds.

"That first year also lit a competitive fire in me," says Gary. "When you go out and practice every day, but then game night comes and you are sitting on the bench in street clothes, you find that you miss that part of the game and it eats at you. The scrimmages in practice against the first team were the 'real' games for us redshirts. I was ready to go the next year."

And once he started going, Gary never really stopped.

After the red-shirt season, he quickly became a Patriot regular, a four-year starter who piled up 1,787



points during his career, second-best at FMU and fourth-best in Peach Belt Conference history. A superb shooter from the outset of his college career, Gary set school career records for three-pointers made, attempted free throws made, and free throw percentage (88 percent for his career).

Gary earned first-team All-Peach Belt Conference honors his final season. Not surprisingly, for a young man who blended athletics and academics nicely throughout his career, Gary was also named to the Peach Belt Conference Presidential Honor Roll three times.

## NEXT STOP: LUXEMBOURG

Now, Gary begins the next chapter in his basketball life.

He has signed with agent Frederick Haag and the Final 4 Management agency, and will play with Heffingen in the Luxembourg League. He will leave South Carolina in mid-August to begin practice and a new life. The season will run from October through May.

Pro basketball in Luxembourg is not exactly the top of the hoops ladder, but, notes Gary, it is a first step.

"My goal has been to get my foot in the door in regards to professional basketball and work my way up," says Gary. "I wanted to find the right fit overseas, a place that could be a stepping stone. I think with the help of Mr. Haag, that first step has been accomplished.

"A new career now begins as I work to show my talents at the professional level, with the ultimate goal of having a chance to play in the NBA Developmental League and then

maybe get a shot at the NBA – every basketball player's dream.

It's impossible to say where basketball might take Gary. He is a skilled player – he's a particularly good shooter, fifth nationally in three-point shooting this year – and his

to coach someone who truly excels in the classroom and on the court. That exception is Evrik Gary. "

"I'm sure some of his talent comes naturally," says Edwards, "but most of it has been earned. He spent countless hours in the weight room

**"During my coaching career I have had the pleasure of working with quite a few students, and I have worked with some outstanding athletes, but it's rare to coach someone who truly excels in the classroom and on the court. That exception is Evrik Gary."**

**~ Gary Edwards, FMU Men's Basketball Coach**

career trajectory clearly took a sharp turn upward during his senior season. He was a good player before that, but by the end of the 2013-14 season, he was one of the best in the conference, a nearly un-guardable player on offense who excelled in nearly every phase of the game.

## BALL NOW, BUSINESS LATER

Nothing's guaranteed of course, but Gary could have a real future in the professional game.

And that, of course, means that work on his MBA will have to take a backseat, at least for the time being. Gary needs just five classes to complete the degree and he says he will get it. Just not now.

"I hope to again find that balance and be able to work out a schedule where I can complete my degree requirements, maybe in the off season," says Gary.

Gary's coaches and teachers at FMU say no doubt he'll get it done.

He's just that kind of person – or rather, that one-of-a-kind of person.

Edwards offered high praise for his departing star, comparing him to the oft-elusive ideal of the student-athlete.


"During my coaching career I have had the pleasure of working with quite a few students, and I have worked with some outstanding athletes," says Edwards, "but it's rare

and on the court developing and refining his skills. In my 30 years as a head coach, I have never had a player work harder than Evrik.

"I feel blessed to have coached him. I am grateful for his loyalty. I will miss him in many ways."

Gary says he'll miss Edwards, his teammates and his many faculty mentors as well.

"Looking back at my time at FMU, the experiences helped me grow as a person," Gary says. "Being a student-athlete forces you to reach a balance in your life – sports and class work and social life – and it also teaches you time management skills. I have now reached the point where I don't have any wasted time in my day. I am always doing something positive.

"College life creates relationships with people that you otherwise would not have met," says Gary, "this extends to the faculty and staff as well, like Dr. (Hubert) Setzler and Dr. (Joe) Aniello, who were two of my favorite professors. As a basketball team, a group of 15 guys meshes together for the entire year. It becomes your second family. And this also extends to the other student-athletes on campus as you spend time with them as well." 

*Michael Hawkins ('85) is associate athletic director for sports information and marketing at FMU.*

## FMU ALL-TIME LEADING SCORERS MEN'S BASKETBALL

1. CARLTON FARR (90-95) 1,863
2. EVRIK GARY (11-14) 1,787
3. LOUIS MCCULLOUGH (02-06) 1,714
4. ALLEN FLOYD (71-75) 1,599
5. TERRANCE WOOD (85-89) 1,569



# Uncorking A New Career

*FMU grad Jim Wilford's Fletcher Bay Winery is hitting its stride in the wine business, including a new vintage celebrating his alma mater.*

By Amy Lauren Scott ('07)

**W**hen a journey starts at Francis Marion University, you never know where it will take you.

For instance, wine connoisseur Jim Wilford's ('80) journey took him from Florence to Bainbridge, Wa., a Seattle suburb; and from a run-of-the-mill business career to a new life where he trades municipal bonds by day and operates a growing wine-making operation by night.

The latter pursuit has produced, of late, a new table wine called "Patriot Red" that will, to some degree, bring Wilford's journey full circle.

Yes, it's named after those Patriots. There's even a likeness of Gen. Francis Marion on the bottle.

Wilford, the owner of

Fletcher Bay Winery, says Patriot Red is a pleasing blend that he hopes will interest the FMU family as well as other wine drinkers.

"Patriot Red is a medium-bodied blend of merlot, sangiovese and malbec, with all grapes coming from the Columbia Valley, about one hour away from Bainbridge," he says.

The wine is solely a product of Wilford and Fletcher Bay. It is not endorsed by Francis Marion University. Wilford, however, is donating a portion of all proceeds from sales to the university. In the past, Wilford has donated other Fletcher Bay products to fund-raising auctions at the university.

"Donating wine to the auction and producing Patriot Red is Jim's way of giving his talents and time back to the university community," says Julian Young, FMU's director of

alumni affairs.

Patriot Red isn't Wilford's first "cause" wine. He began making "Valvano," a Super Tuscan, several years ago. It's named after former N.C. State basketball coach Jimmy Valvano, and Wilford donates some of the proceeds from that sale to the well-known Jimmy V Fund that was established after Valvano's death to raise funds for cancer research.

## WANTED: A HOBBY

Wilford's interest in winemaking started when he "gave up golf and needed a hobby."

It didn't hurt that he was in a vibrant wine-making area. There are seven wineries in Bainbridge (population, 23,212) alone, and Washington State ranks as the second-largest wine producer in the United States, just behind California.

After several years







*Jim and Sharon Wilford pose with their Fletcher Bay Wine at Bainbridge Uncorked.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM WILFORD.

of making wine at home, reading books and touring various wineries in the area while traveling, Wilford opened Fletcher Bay Winery in 2008. He hopes his venture can serve as a second source of income when he eventually retires from Piper Jaffray. He's worked at the brokerage firm's Seattle office for 20 years.

To learn the art of wine making, Wilford earned a wine making certificate from the University of California at Davis, but he strongly acknowledges his FMU education – he was a business major – for his success as both a municipal bond broker and wine maker.

"While I use finance and economic skills in my day job as a broker, the skills I learned in accounting and marketing courses at FMU came in handy when starting and promoting the winery," says Wilford.

Wilford also credits his geography minor at FMU with helping him understand geographical tendencies with municipal bond trading.

## BREAK-EVEN POINT

Along with Patriot Red, Fletcher Bay also produces blends of Heavy Red, Bordeaux, Super Tuscans and Cabernet Sauvignon. Fletcher Bay features a total of nine wines, with five red wines, two white wines and two dessert wines, but is noted for custom-blended reds. Wilford prefers red wines himself, but as a businessman he understands the

market asks for more. So, Fletcher Bay also produces a Pinot Grigio white wine. Wilford says there's an increased demand in all wine, as the United States is rapidly growing as a worldwide wine consumer.

"Women are big consumers of wine, as it seems like they drink less beer and liquor, and many men who consume beer and liquor are adding wine," says Wilford. "Since wine complements meals better than beer or hard liquor, I've also noticed an increase in twenty-somethings drinking wine."

With a production of about 1,000 cases a year, Fletcher Bay Winery is considered a boutique winery. The small-scale operation includes a press, crusher, de-stemming machine, pumps and barrels for the wine. Wilford replaces his barrels each year. That kind of overhead, plus equipment maintenance costs, means that operating a winery gets expensive. It's a particular challenge for small wineries.

"After five years, I'm almost breaking even," Wilford says. "Winemaking isn't a lucrative business, but I'm in it because I love it, not for the money."

Fletcher Bay is a wine-making operation, not a vineyard. Wilford buys grapes from across Washington.

Wilford's passion for his second career means he's heavily involved at Fletcher Bay after work hours and on the weekends. He employs a staff

of five people, including himself. Fletcher Bay's separate tasting room is often manned by Wilford's wife, Sharon, and daughter. The family helps out whenever needed, but especially during the monthly Bainbridge-area wineries' wine tasting weekends.

The hard work has paid off. Fletcher Bay's wines have gained attention, winning 10 competitive medals since 2010. In 2012, Fletcher Bay's Pinot Grigio, featuring grapes from the Yamika Valley, won a silver medal at the New York International Wine Competition. The winery's Battle Point Red won a bronze medal that same year. Battle Point Red also won a gold medal at the NorthWest Wine Summit in 2008. In 2013, the Patriot Red won a bronze medal in the Super Tuscan blend category at the Los Angeles International Wine Competition.

Wilford says he appreciates the awards but appreciates personal compliments from other wine connoisseurs more. "I love the kudos from people who enjoy Fletcher Bay's wines, and making wines that people enjoy brings me happiness," he says.

Fletcher Bay prides itself on using locally-grown grapes, including Italian Sangiovese, Spanish Tempranillo, Lemberger and Pinot Grigio, from the Columbia Valley, Yakima Valley and Walla Walla. The winery is located on the waterfront of Fletcher Bay, hence the name, and is accessible by both land and sea. It's open for visitors Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and wines frequently sell out. 🍷



**IT'S A VERY GOOD YEAR:**  
PATRIOT RED BELONGS IN EVERY FMU FAN'S CELLAR.

*Amy Lauren Scott ('07) is a technical writer at ACS Technologies. Amy and her husband reside in Charleston, SC.*



# STRIKING A CHORD

## PAOLO GUALDI'S S.C. CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL IS TWO YEARS OLD . . . AND GROWING

BY ARMAND BROADY

**D**r. Paolo Gualdi's dream of bringing a chamber music festival to Francis Marion University is now very much a reality.

Francis Marion University hosted the second South Carolina Chamber Music Festival in the Black Box Theatre of FMU's Performing Arts Center in February, and with two years now under its belt, all indications are that there will be more of these events to come. Gualdi, an assistant professor of music at FMU and an accomplished classical performer himself, is already preparing for 2015, while pondering potential expansions and additions to the week-long event.

"What I wanted to do is bring chamber music -- one of my favorite kinds of music -- to Florence, to FMU, offer this to people and see what the feedback would be," Gualdi says. "In both years, we've had a lot of people come in and I am very happy to see that there is a demand for this kind of music."

Both this spring and at the initial festival in 2013, Gualdi used his connections in the international classical music community to bring an array of talented musicians to Florence. Performers from half a dozen different countries, many of whom, like Gualdi, are foreign transplants now working academic roles in the United States, took the stage in a variety of combinations.

A final performance was even held this year in Lake City, S.C.

Gualdi says the enthusiastic response to the festival -- several nights at the Black Box were sold out and good crowds were on hand at every performance -- suggests that the event could grow.

"Eventually I would like the festival to expand to other venues," says Gualdi. "In a couple of years, I'd like to have a festival covering the whole county and even beyond. The sky is the limit."

Gualdi says his next step will likely mean expanding the festival to two weeks and scheduling several events at the same time at different places. That will require additional help from sponsors and outside sources.

Gualdi says the Performing Arts Center's Black Box is the perfect place to hold the festival.

"There is a small hall (the Black Box Theatre) at the Performing Arts Center which has perfect acoustics, the sound is magnificent and it seats about 100," says Gualdi. "The music embraces you. That hall is perfect for chamber music because it gives the idea of being among friends."

Along with the evening performances at the festival, the performers also conducted master classes and offered lectures during

the day.

Besides the guest performers brought in from long distance, performers at the festival included Gualdi and fellow Francis Marion faculty members Shane Reeves, Dr. Brandon Goff and Dr. Terry Roberts. Goff is a composer and guitarist. Reeves is a percussionist and Roberts is a master of brass instruments, especially the French horn. At the festival's capstone performance, Roberts joined Reeves in an unusual French horn and marimba duet; and Gualdi and Goff teamed up for a rare piano-electric guitar pairing written by Goff.

For Gualdi, a native Italian who came to the United States 15 years ago, the festival is the culmination of more than 30 years spent expressing his love for an art form. Gualdi says that he can hardly imagine life itself without music.

"I don't know what I would have done without it," he confesses. "As a human being, I can't remember a time when music was not in my life. I have a big remembrance of when I was three or four and I was conducting in front of the stereo. Not only has it saved my life, but it is so fulfilling." 🎻

*Armand Broady ('13) is a freelance writer and play-by-play broadcaster.*



# Taking a cue from past events, P O S K I T O expands

BY MATT McCOLL

**F**rom one successful educational outreach project to another, Francis Marion University is expanding the depth and breadth of its presence throughout the region.

With a series of wildly successful and long running projects such as the Pee Dee Fiction and Poetry Festival, Arts International and the newly founded Wildsumaco Biological Station in Ecuador, the university has seen multiple departments expand into their respective areas of focus with offerings for students as well as the community at-large.

Two years ago, Associate Professor of Art Education Dr. Howard Frye pitched the idea for another project – focused on visual storytelling – to the university's administration, and in March, the Poskito South Carolina Photography and Video Conference was born.

A world-class event by all accounts, the collaborative project between the Fine Arts Department and the Department of Mass Communication brought in photographers, videographers and new media specialists from publications such as *The Atlantic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Rolling Stone* and *Life* among others to the campus of Francis Marion University and downtown Florence.

Dr. Fred Carter, the university's president and one of the major supporters of the project, said Poskito represents the best of Francis Marion University and what the faculty and its support staff are able to accomplish.

"The quality of people we had here was unbelievable," Carter said. "It really represented a quality effort on behalf of this faculty and this

university. I think that almost everyone who came and participated in the conference, or even came and sat in on the conference as a member of the audience, walked away feeling that it was a very successful event."



FRYE

The project goes back to August 2012 when Carter offered up support for any faculty member willing to curate a project within their field that could advance the experiential learning opportunities of students, as well as provide for community engagement and involvement.

Just a few weeks after, Frye took Carter up on the offer and was seeking an audience with the university's administration to discuss what would eventually become Poskito.

Even with the full support of the faculty and administration behind him, Frye knew the path to March 2014 and the inaugural Poskito Conference would be a long one. With dozens of speakers to arrange and countless exhibits to organize, the assistant professor of fine arts became one of the hardest working event planners overnight.

Feeling that the burgeoning project could have a greater reach if the Fine Arts Department partnered with another department, Carter and Dr. Richard Chapman, the provost of Francis Marion

University, considered the Department of Mass Communication a perfect fit.

With their partnering department in mind, Frye – with the help of Associate Professor of Visual Art, Greg Fry; Assistant Professor of Visual Arts, Julie Mixon; Chairman of the Department of Mass Communication, Tim Hanson; and Associate Professor of Mass Communication, Maria Lundberg, and various members of the Fine Arts

Department – began to hone in on the focus of what the conference would be.

Through months of endless coordination manifested in countless phone calls, grant proposals and nearly every logistical nightmare to ever be imagined – Frye was left to deal with orchestrating the movement of fine works of art on specialized trucks from their homes in other parts of the country to Florence – the conference began to take shape.

Then, on Thursday, March 6, the conference was underway.

By Frye's estimation, more than 500 people attended at least one of the talks or panel discussions on campus, more than 60 Francis Marion University students took part in a workshop or class taught by one of the visiting presenters and 33 high school students from Wilson High School and Lake City High School attended workshops hosted by world-renowned documentary photographer Nina Berman.

"The conference we put on definitely included one of the best exhibits that has ever been put on at this university," Frye said.

Carter said he feels the conference reflects on both a new Francis Marion University – which is continually expanding and looking to serve the region – as well as a standard of the university for decades: a dedicated faculty willing to work tirelessly for the betterment of the students and university.

"It underscores the very strong work ethic of this faculty," Carter said. "Effort for effort, measured against any other faculty in the state, I would put this faculty head and shoulders above all others."

The payoff of for the hard work? Poskito is now on the FMU calendar as a biannual event with the next iteration set for 2016. 📅

*Matt McColl is a 2009 graduate of FMU.*



SOUTH CAROLINA PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO CONFERENCE



# Just call it ... the FM

## *New Florence County Museum is in Patriot hands*

**BY AMY LAUREN SCOTT ('07)**

**A**mong the displays when the brand new Florence County Museum opens in downtown Florence this fall, the work of Francis Marion's finest will be on display.

The museum's director, Andrew Stout ('03, '07), is an FMU alum and most of his staff are Patriots, too. Five of the seven members of the team that's helping prepare the museum for its debut are Francis Marion grads.

That's not a complete coincidence, but it's not part of an orchestrated plan either. Most of the FMUers at the museum say that when they were attending FMU in the early 2000s – all five of them graduated between 2001 and 2007 – they never considered their classroom interactions, their projects, or their interpersonal activities as networking opportunities for the future. But, it did

work out that way, and today they share a bond as FMU alumni, working to preserve and share the area's history.

### **Common Ground**

After completing a summer internship at the museum while an undergraduate at FMU, Stout joined the museum's then two-man staff as curator of education. He handled many of the roles now filled by his classmates. Stout later became executive director and as the museum became a county operation and the ramp up towards the new building began, he hired new staff and gave up some of his old duties ... in large part, to fellow FMU grads.

"I had to put my faith in someone else," says Stout. "As new positions developed, I knew the skills that they required, and I knew fellow FMU alumni have the

education and skills necessary for the museum to succeed."

The hiring of Stephen Motte ('01), the museum's curator of collections and interpretation, is indicative of the process. Motte developed a working relationship with the museum after proposing an exhibit featuring young local artists.

"(Stephen) and I studied at FMU at the same time, and I admired him as an artist," Stout says. "From viewing his art, I knew that he was detail-oriented and thorough, which are skills he uses in his current position." When Motte joined the staff in 2005, Stout's confidence in him was reinforced from leading museum tours together. He saw that Motte did his homework: he knew details about each work of art soon after being hired.

As the operation expanded, Stout hired Administrative Assistant





# MUuseum

*The Patriot collection: FMU grads make up most of the staff at the new Florence County Museum. From left to right, Jim Stephens, Stephen Motte, Kimberly Groom, Andrew Stout, and Christina Garrett.*

PHOTO BY: MATT MCCOLL

Christina Garrett ('03), Graphic and Communication Designer Jim Stephens ('05), and Curator of Education Kimberly Groom ('07). Groom is the most recent hire. Stout says that while he and Groom were not FMU students at the same time, he remembered her from speaking to her undergraduate classes about his work at the museum.

Groom says the (almost) all-FMU lineup at the museum created a quick bond that has helped meld the staff into a team, even though they didn't all attend school at exactly the same time or embark on exactly the same courses of study.

"Working with other graduates gives our office a sense of unity, camaraderie, and common experiences to draw from," Groom says. As they came on board, the staff members quickly discovered a common ground through FMU, whether it was being in a class with a fellow staff member, recalling seeing a co-worker's artwork displayed on campus, reading one's work in campus publications, or knowing the same professors.

Garrett, who recalls both Stout and Stephens from her college days, says that's a testimony to one of FMU's most-loved attributes: its intimacy.

"Since FMU is a smaller university, the class sizes allowed us to spend one-on-one time with not only our professors, but also our classmates and peers," says Garrett. "I'm not sure students at larger universities have that experience."

## A new museum

Nearly 80 years ago, Florence resident Jane Beverly Evans traveled the world and returned to the Pee Dee excited about sharing other cultures under one roof. That roof – it was initially housed in the Florence County Library's basement – eventually became Florence County Museum. The facility opened in 1936.

Evans wrote then that she hoped it would "grow to be a great museum, spreading its cultural influence through the eastern part of South Carolina to become the Pride of the Pee Dee."

The museum soon outgrew its

basement location and in 1953, moved to the former Lawton-Chase home on Florence's Spruce Street. Although larger, the Spruce Street location soon faced challenges due to its size, architecture, and location. It was a house in a residential area – Timrod Park. It didn't look like a museum and many residents did not realize the county had such a facility. The space was problematic even for those that did. Parking was difficult, and while the Lawton Chase home was a large residence for the time, its renovation into a museum left only 3,800 square feet of exhibit space. Walking tours for large groups were difficult, and the museum scrambled to find display space. Even converted closets were deployed. There was no space for traveling collections.

"In 2006, the Florence County Museum formed a relationship with the Smithsonian Institution, which allows us to host traveling exhibits," Stout says. "However, due to climate control and accessibility, the Spruce Street location could not host these exhibits." Since



*The new Florence Museum on West Cheves Street.*

PHOTO BY: MATT MCCOLL

the facility could only display a few collections at once, museum visitors never saw the plethora of objects, artistic, historical and otherwise, on hand unless they visited often. Most of it was stashed away in a nearby storage facility.

Eventually, plans for a new facility came to fruition, thanks to a partnership that includes the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation, the state of South Carolina, the City of Florence and Florence County. The 11,800 square foot, state-of-the-art facility is located on West Cheves Street, in the arts and cultural district of Downtown Florence. It's directly across from the FMU Performing Arts Center.

## Fast work

While securing funding and planning a new building was exciting, the staff had little time to celebrate. As the building went up, they quickly geared up to prepare, store, and transport delicate artifacts. While each staff member has a distinct job title and daily duties, they've joined forces to design and implement educational experiences for visitors to the new museum.

"Over the last few years, we've designed a new museum for Florence County," says Stephens. "We're not just moving objects- we're creating a new experience for visitors, and this is the largest project we've taken on."

While creating experiences and educational programs, the staff has also taken special care in moving objects that are thousands of years old and

irreplaceable.

To provide a Smithsonian-grade facility for high-caliber exhibits, the museum partnered with Haley Sharpe Design of Toronto to design exhibits and Cooper, Robertson, and Partners, a New York based architecture firm with extensive experience in constructing educational facilities.

These dedicated galleries, open collection viewing space, studios, and classrooms are most exciting for Groom and Stout, who both taught art in public schools. Stout taught at Florence County School District 5 during his early years of working at the museum.

"Teaching in a public school by day and working at the museum by night was one of the most beneficial experiences of my career," Stout says. "Every day, I worked with the very students that our museum benefits, which reinforced Evans' dream for our community every night when I worked at the museum."

The new location features an educational wing with a dedicated studio and three classrooms that provide additional educational programs for all ages and populations. The educational wing lets the staff use the collections in the museum to teach classes that Pee Dee residents can't find elsewhere, such as painting, printmaking, and drawing. Camps were held in the new museum in the summer of 2014, which were more formal and involved than those held at the former location.

Since the museum brings hundreds of

cultures together, these educational experiences transport Pee Dee residents to other places and time periods. While some museums focus solely on a single concept, such as art, railroads, or contemporary design, the Florence County Museum's broad focus lets visitors from all walks of life personally connect with the artifacts and exhibits.

"Under one roof, visitors can learn about public figures ranging from revolutionary war

heroes to local artists such as William H. Johnson," Stout says. "You can see artifacts from prehistoric fossils to atomic bomb fragments."

While the museum's permanent collection offers something for all, the spacious new location allows for full exhibits, including print, audiovisual, and art components, and more than half of the Cheves Street facility's gallery space is allotted for visiting content, encouraging repeat visits.

"Children and younger people are especially receptive," says Motte. "They readily accept the value of what they see, whether it's prehistoric fossils or painting exhibits."

Motte says he visited the Spruce Street location as a child, and those memories have helped inspire his own career at the museum, where he cares for the collections and scheduling exhibits.

"Regardless of the building and location, we always strive for visitors to walk away with an amazing experience," Motte says. "Even if you've seen an exhibit before, you can experience it in a new and better way if you visit again."

From a library basement to a renovated home and now a purpose-built facility, the Florence County Museum's original goals haven't strayed from Evans' dream.

A team of Patriots is helping to make that happen. 🇺🇸

*Amy Lauren Scott ('07) is a technical writer at ACS Technologies. Amy and her husband reside in Charleston, S.C.*



# An exceptional career well remembered

*Retirement will mean more time for Bill Ramsey to write – if he can just get past those classroom memories.*

By Tucker Mitchell

**D**r. Bill Ramsey spent the better part of five decades struggling to find time to follow his muse and pursue the full-blown life of an author and poet.

It just never happened. Life, and the unending duties of a dedicated college English professor, got in the way, and Ramsey became, in his own words, “a frustrated artist.”

But now, seeming liberation, and a potential end to frustrations past: Ramsey is retired. It happened this spring following a storied, 43-year teaching career, the last 26 of which he spent at Francis Marion University. Now, nestled with his wife Deborah at their coastal retreat, Ramsey can pick up a pen and paper whenever the impulse strikes, and dash off a few more lines of his beloved haiku. He can listen all day long, if he likes, for the deep thoughts emanating from wherever deep poetic thoughts live.

He could do that. Ironically, what Ramsey is hearing most often during the opening weeks of his new life is not the melody of the muse, but rather an echo from the classroom.

Yes, that classroom, the one that “stole” time away from the frustrated artist for all those years.

“Barely a day goes by that I don’t think about it,” Ramsey said recently. “I see the classrooms through the years, see the students, picture where they sat. I cannot get my mind off their beautiful souls.”

“My affection for my students, now that really is profound,” says Ramsey. “I was so blessed. And that is really the essence of it, of what it means to be a teacher.”

So, could the fulfillment of a frustrated artist

DR. BILL RAMSEY SAYS  
HE WILL MISS HIS TIME  
IN THE CLASSROOM.

mean the creation of a frustrated professor?

Ramsey ponders the question a moment. Perhaps, he says. He is just recently removed. Time passes. The view may change. But, he says, the classroom days do not pass easily.

"I do know," says Ramsey, "that I'm going to miss it. Teaching, that was always my first love."

## SOUTHERN TRANSPLANT

What Ramsey loved – loves – to teach is American literature, especially the works of southern authors.

That's an unlikely specialty for someone who grew up in eastern Pennsylvania and central New York and went to college at the University of Maine. But there is more than meets the eye to Ramsey's geographical tale.

His father was a traveling salesman, "so we moved around a lot."

That movement included, among other things, regular summer stays with relatives in the southern Appalachian highlands, specifically in the mountain village of Big Stone Gap, Va. Ramsey recalls that place, and the surrounding mountain spaces in North Carolina and Tennessee with great fondness.

"(The mountain folks) were the finest, friendliest people you could ever hope to meet," he says.

Ramsey's highland days were among the best of his life, and they created a lasting affection for the South and its people. That affinity grew at the University of North Carolina, where Ramsey completed his master's and doctoral work. His doctoral dissertation is on certain aspects of a novel by the decidedly un-southern Herman Melville. It is a fitting work, given that Ramsey's Ph.D. is in American Literature and Melville is a national literary icon. But his master's thesis – he wrote about character stereotypes in the novels of Charles Chesnutt – was more in keeping with Ramsey's lifetime's passion: the South as viewed by black writers.

Chesnutt, a man of mixed race who was raised in and around Fayetteville, N.C., viewed southern culture and heritage through a particularly nuanced lens which fascinated Ramsey. But the ever-curious Ramsey found the extraordinary in the works of countless southern blacks, and he spent his career both analyzing them and bringing them to the attention of his students.

During his last decade or two, Ramsey reckons, more than a third of the authors considered in his American Lit courses at FMU were black. This was Ramsey's personal choice, but one he thought particularly important for students at a southern college.

Besides guiding them to "discover" lesser known authors like Chesnutt, Terrance Hayes or Colson Whitehead (or even well-known figures like Frederick Douglass who are seldom considered as writers), Ramsey also ensured his students gained a critical understanding of southern cultural history. Black writers before the Civil Rights era, says Ramsey, hold, almost universally, a negative view of the South, its people and its traditions. Writers who came of age after those landmark events of the mid-1960s, clearly saw a different place and felt a different rhythm.

"They're upbeat," says Ramsey of the newer writers. "It's not that they ignore all the problems, but for them the South is their turf. It's their home."

That's a significant development that speaks to an evolving southern culture. In a similar vein, Ramsey has also viewed with interest the changing views of his students over the years. "Every so often, it seems like it was about every six years, I'd be reading papers and I'd see a few comments and I'd think to myself, 'I think I'm seeing another generational shift,'" says Ramsey. "It would take another few years, and it would be confirmed. It's a reflection of American society, of course, but I think it stems from what we read in class and how we approached that as well. It was very interesting to watch

it happen."

## NOT DEAD WOOD

Ramsey began his career at tiny Sullins College in Bristol, Va. just a mountain or two away from Big Stone Gap. Then, after completing his doctorate, was hired at Chowan Junior College, an outpost in North Carolina's rural northeast corner. Later, he moved to Birmingham Southern where he taught for seven years before moving to FMU in 1988.

The Ramseys have been married for 37 years and have settled in Florence and at FMU. They have made friends, raised a daughter, and had many good times.

Ramsey loved the collegial atmosphere at the university and the couple enjoyed the size and feel of the town. He taught, researched, and wrote. Uniquely, he was lauded by his colleagues in all those areas.

One day, Ramsey discovered he was in a new millennium and at something of a crossroads as well. He'd been at FMU about 15 years and was looking at the final stages of his professional career. Reflective as always, he pondered one of life's more challenging questions: how to finish a life that was already well-lived, a career that, from the outside at least, seemed reasonably complete?

"I thought at that time, 'well, you know, you've probably got another 10 years at this (being a professor),' says Ramsey. "What are you going to do? Be deadwood? Just freeze in place and run out the time?" That didn't seem very appealing, so I decided I'd take the exact opposite approach."

For a noted teacher, that meant a radical step. He "threw out" all his previous teaching functions and ideas and began the laborious process of reinventing himself as an instructor.

"It may seem crazy to some," says Ramsey, "but it was a total necessity. There was no other way to go. And it turned out to be the right thing. The last 10 (years), they were best of my career, by far."

Ramsey's reinvention was facilitated by FMU President Dr. Fred



Carter and the university's board of trustees, who voted to make Ramsey a Trustees Research Scholar in 2005 (the three-year appointment was renewed in 2008).

The scholar status lightened Ramsey's teaching load – that is the point of the program. But true to the central passion of his career, Ramsey used the extra time to research better ways to teach his remaining classes.

Ramsey's late career shift was difficult. A scholar at the peak of his powers with regard to knowledge and insight, he chose, at that very moment, to step back from the lecture model and turn more of the intellectual work over to his students.

"It is the difference between education and learning," says Ramsey. "In the education model some learned person lectures and, hopefully, there is a little discussion, and the students learn some facts. With learning, it's all about independent inquiry. That's how I engaged all my students for the last few years."

The thinking behind the shift developed during Ramsey's teaching career. In retrospect, it hearkened back to his undergraduate and graduate days as a student.

"Don't get me wrong, I had many fine professors," says Ramsey. "I really can't say that I remember any of their lectures, though. ... But, I remember quite a few of the papers I did. I think that tells you everything you need to know about my paradigm shift. The students will be better off if they are learning under their own power, the way I did. The hard part is transferring that feeling, the idea of being a scholar, to them."

Ramsey made it happen. Dr. Chris Johnson, head of the English department during Ramsey's final years, notes that surveys from graduating seniors regularly

cited Ramsey's courses as the best they encountered during their undergraduate careers. Beyond that, says Johnson, Ramsey's effort to push students into their own research made Ramsey "especially good at preparing our best students for the challenges of graduate school."

## NO LIMERICKS

Ramsey's poetry is piercing and illuminating. He prefers haiku, and a number of related forms, because, when done right, they provide such excellent vehicles for that kind of work, and because other forms that Ramsey has explored do not. He once wrote, perhaps facetiously, that "I've heard of the deep spiritual profundity to be found in limericks; however, I have not yet found it there."

Colleagues like FMU English professor Phillip Gardner say that sort of subtle humor, and similar thinking in more serious veins, is typical of Ramsey. Gardner says one of the great pleasures of his career

was to work with Ramsey on several collaborations, "just so I could watch his mind at work."

Readers of Ramsey's poetry will certainly understand what Gardner means. Ramsey's brief writings – the point of haiku is, in large part, its brevity – are profound because the sentiments expressed ring true but are, at the same time, quite unexpected.


Ramsey is looking forward to more of that in his retirement, and hopes that an eventual expansion of his free time will allow him to build on a writing career, which has already produced three books of poetry and several hundred individually published poems. This will be no factory operation, though. No routine will be involved. Ramsey says for him poetry is about the imponderable, not the process. If he sits down specifically to write, nothing happens.

"But when something does happen (meaning, something inspires him), I'd better sit down and write something right then," he says.

Retirement may eventually afford Ramsey that freedom. For the time being, though, that will have to be fitted around chores and housework. The Ramseys purchased their retirement home several years ago but are just now getting it ready.

"All those little jobs, that's all I've really been doing since I retired," Ramsey says with a laugh.

Well, that and a little day dreaming about instructional days gone by.

"The classroom," says Ramsey, "can be a magical place. I don't mean that it's like that every day, of course. It's not. But on those days ... well, there is nothing like it. Those are days I won't forget." 

*Tucker Mitchell is Executive Director of Public Affairs at Francis Marion University.*

## A sampling of Bill Ramsey's Haiku

*The dead boy  
On a Rwandan road  
As I eat shrimp*

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*Born to live I hoe  
An, ah, born to die  
I kiss the melon*

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*The light turning green  
Against a vast night  
My turn to go*

# Business School's Anaza, Kyer teach in China, Germany

ACADEMIA

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**D**R. **NWAMAKA ANAZA**, assistant professor of marketing, taught Marketing Management to MBA students in the Masters of Business Administration International Program at Wuhan University in Hubei, China this summer. The university, widely recognized as one of most beautiful universities in the world, has some 53,000 students, 18,000 postgraduates and more than 5,000 teachers, and offers instruction in many disciplines. ... **DR. BEN KYER**, professor of economics, lectured for one month (April 27- May 24) at Ludwigshafen University of Applied Sciences in Germany as part of an internationalization strategy at the university. The student population of the university is just less than 3,000.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**D**R. **RICHARD ALMEIDA**, associate professor of political science, organized the FMU Humanities and Social Science Symposium. This year's speakers included: **DR. SCOTT KAUFMAN**, professor of history, **DR. PAMELA ROOKS**, professor of English, **DR. RUTH WITTMANN-PRICE**, professor of nursing, **DR. COREY REMLE**, assistant professor of sociology. ... **DR. WILLIAM DANIEL**, assistant professor of political science, published the article, "When the Agent Knows Better than the Principal: The Effect of Education and Seniority on European Parliament Rapporteur Assignment" in the Journal of Common Market Studies. Daniel also presented "From Second Order Legislature to First Rate Job: Career Ambition in the European Parliament, 1979-2009" at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Symposium on European Union Governance: Legislative Politics, Foreign Policy, and Networking, and

he presented "Mind the Gap: What Organizational Ecology can tell us about Right-wing Populist Success and Failure in Austria and the Netherlands" at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, La. ...

Works by **DOUG GRAY**, professor of visual arts/ceramics, were included in the Wichita National Exhibition in Wichita, Kan. Gray also received the second place award in the fall Florence Museum Miniature Exhibit for his ceramic

piece, "Nocturne." One of his pieces was also featured in the 2014 ArtFields Exhibit in Lake City. ArtFields is a juried, regional competition open to artists in a variety of mediums from across the southeast. ... **DR. KEVIN LASHER**, professor of political science, is on sabbatical during the spring 2014 semester conducting research on the Obama Administration's foreign policy strategy. ... Images from FMU's Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit, presented at the Hyman Fine Arts Center Gallery this spring, were the subject of the cover for the monthly Carolina Arts magazine that covers the arts in South Carolina. The magazine is published in Charleston. ... Two

works by **DR. BRANDON GOFF**, assistant professor of music, debuted on public stages this spring. Goff's "Black Like Sunday," a mixed chamber ensemble, was performed by the DaCamera Society Ensemble in downtown

Los Angeles. In addition, Goff's "ForceQuit," a throbbing duet for piano and electric guitar, debuted during the 2014 South Carolina Chamber Music Festival at FMU's Performing Arts Center. Goff played the guitar and **DR. PAOLO GUALDI**,

assistant professor of music, played piano in that performance. Gualdi is the organizer of the festival. Gualdi traveled to France to record "Pasión" with mezzo-soprano Kirstin Chavez. A CD of their collaborations was



FLEDGLING BY DOUG GRAY

published by the German label IFO Classics. ... **DR. MARY LOUISE NAGATA**, associate professor of history, had her article "Urban Reproduction and Fertility: Kyoto in Late Tokugawa Japan," which she co-authored, published recently in Kansai University Review of Economics. ... **DR. JACQUELINE CAMPBELL**, associate professor of history, presented a lecture entitled "A Unique but Dangerous Entanglement: Benjamin Butler and Confederate Women in Occupied New Orleans, May-December, 1862" at the 19th annual Williams Research Center Symposium: "Home Front, Battlefield:

Louisiana in the Civil War" in New Orleans, La. in Jan. 2014... **DR. JOHN BRITTON**, long-time member of the Francis Marion University Department of History and now Professor Emeritus, recently published *Cables, Crises, and the Press: The Geopolitics of the New*





*International Information System in the Americas, 1866-1903*. The work was published by the University of New Mexico Press. It is Britton's sixth book. *Cables, Crises and the Press* reveals a compelling parallel between the late nineteenth century and today, when communications suddenly made a great technological leap. Then, new communications systems, based on advances in submarine cable technology and newspaper printing, brought information to an excitable mass audience with unprecedented speed. The Internet and mobile communications have created a similar change today. ... **DR. LENA ESKRIDGE-KOSMACH**, associate professor of history, presented her paper entitled "Russian Press and the Special Mission of Russia in Asia" at the Ohio Valley History Conference, Oct. 2013 in Bowling Green, Ky. She also had an article entitled "Russian Press and Boxer Rebellion" published in the *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, and presented a paper entitled "Russian Press and the Division of China into Spheres of Influence" at the Conference of the Southern Association of Slavic Studies recently in Atlanta. ... **DR. CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY**, chair of the Department of History, chaired two paper panels and presented as part of another panel in Albuquerque, N.M. at the recent National Biennial Conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honors Society. At that conference, he was reelected to the National Council of Phi Alpha Theta. He also serves on the group's executive committee and editorial committee for the journal, *The Historian*. ... At the same Phi Alpha Theta conference, **DR. SCOTT KAUFMAN**, professor of history at FMU, presented a paper and, like Kennedy, chaired two panels. Kaufman was also part of a roundtable on Jimmy Carter's presidency that took place at the Organization of American Historians national conference in Atlanta in the spring, and is scheduled to chair a panel on the Carter administration at the Society for Historians of American Foreign



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. GINGER BRYNGELSON

Dr. Drozdov (L) and Dr. Ginger Bryngelson (R) at the Kitt Peak National Observatory.

## A Star is Born

**D**R. GINGER BRYNGELSON, an assistant professor of Physics and Astronomy, was part of a team on hand at the Kitt Peak (Arizona) National Observatory when a rare and brand new supernova was discovered. Along with fellow researcher Dina Drozdov, a graduate student from Clemson, they were able to study the "newly" exploded star in the M-82, or "cigar" galaxy, using near-infrared images and other photography from the 4-meter telescope at Kitt. Only a handful of teams worldwide had access to high-powered imaging devices in the days immediately after the rare Type 1a supernova was discovered. Bryngelson was in Arizona on previously scheduled research time at the National Observatory.

Relations Conference, which will take place this summer in Kentucky. Kaufman also presented his book on *Project Plowshare* at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in Albuquerque, N.M. in May. Choice magazine published a favorable



HANSON

Department, traveled to Hiroshima, Japan this summer to interview survivors of the 1945 Atomic Bomb blast. A veteran journalist who's written for a number of publications, Hanson plans to turn the interviews into an article that follows up on his earlier work in Japan and the Pacific. While writing for *Pacific Stars & Stripes*, Hanson visited Tinian – the tiny island near Saipan from where the B-29s "Enola Gay" and "Bockscar" took off with their atomic payloads that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During that same time

review of his book, *Project Plowshare: the peaceful use of nuclear explosives in Cold War America*. ...

**PROFESSOR TIM HANSON**, chairman of FMU's Mass Communication

period, Hanson made his first trip to Hiroshima to interview survivors. Articles later appeared in *Stars & Stripes*. Most recently, Hanson completed two feature stories for *South Carolina Living*, one on Darlington's Southern 500 and another on the growing popularity of sporting clays in the state. He is currently at work on an article for *South Carolina Wildlife* about peregrine falcons. ... **MARIA LUNDBERG**, associate professor of mass communications, led four mass communication students on a media trip to New York City in May to study the applied practice of journalism in the media capital of the U.S. Lundberg arranged tours and visits at the New York Times, CBS News, NBC, ABC News and Good Morning America. The group had front row seats for a taping of the Daily Show with Jon Stewart and a backstage visit afterward. Students accompanying Lundberg included Tracy Howard, Jessica Imbimbo, Zachary Fraley and Joshua Lloyd. All four are all rising seniors majoring in mass communication. ... Lundberg is currently in France interviewing journalists there for a future article

focusing on the impact of websites and social media on news organizations. ... **LIZA COX** recently founded Sobiepan Productions, a company dedicated to creating theatrical works that speak to the authentic human experience. The stories unlock and uncover various individuals' mythic journey in order to help the collective better manage their lives. Cox is an adjunct professor of mass communications at FMU... **KARENMARIE DAVIS** and **TRACY GEORGE**, nursing instructors, published an article "Bullying in nursing: Issues and solutions," in *Advance for Nursing Professional Service*....**TRACY GEORGE** earned the 2013 S.C. League for Nursing Faculty Graduate Student Scholarship and was the 2014 FMU Nominee for the S.C. Commission on Higher Education Service Learning Project Competition. ... Nursing instructor **VICKI MARTIN's** article, "Distraction Techniques for Pediatrics" was published in *Nursing Journal*. ... **DR. SAM BROUGHTON** and **DR. CRYSTAL HILL-CHAPMAN** of the Department of Psychology, in collaboration with colleagues at Coastal Carolina University, published an article in the *American Journal of Educational Research* entitled, "College students' perceptions of relations with parents and academic performance." ... **DR. TIFFANY HARDY**, social psychologist for the Psychoogy Department, collaborated with Dr. Hill-Chapman and three undergraduate students on research projects that were accepted for presentation at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology's annual convention recently. The student co-authors are Anna Caroline Chinnes, Brandi Driggers and Molly Rogers. The projects are: "Strategic Optimism and Defensive Pessimism Affect Likelihood to Engage in the Better Than Average Effect," "The Influence of Family Rituals on Defensive Pessimism, Strategic

Optimism, and Self-Handicapping," and "Age Differences in the Use of Defensive Pessimism and Strategic Optimism."... A paper by **DR. JESSICA L. BURKE**, assistant professor of sociology, entitled "Psychological Distress among Asian Interracial and Intra-racial Relationships: A Mediation Model," has been accepted for presentation at the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) conference in San Francisco. She has also been asked to serve as a discussant for a session on Racial Intimacies and Relationships in the Post-Civil Rights Era at this conference. .... A paper by **DR. JESSICA M. DOUCET**, assistant professor of sociology, entitled, "GRITS: the Southern Subculture of Violence and Homicide Offenses by Girls Raised in the South," was published by the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* in volume 29, issue 5. Doucet also recently presented two other papers. One, a co-authored work entitled, "Illegal Guns and Homicide: A Case Study of New Orleans" was delivered at the American Society of Criminology conference. The other, "Civic Community in the Wake of Disaster: Analyzing the Civic Community Perspective in Pre- and Post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans," was presented at the Race, Gender and Class conference in New Orleans... **DR. LISA A. EARGLE**, chair of the Department of Sociology, has four research papers that have been accepted for publication. "Cyberbullying From Schoolyard to Cyberspace" (co-authored with Dr. Ashraf Esmail of Dillard University and Kelly Gray) will be published as Chapter 12 in the edited volume, *Alleviating Bullying: Conquering the Challenge of Violent Crimes*. "An Unforgettable Foe: an Overview of the Hurricane Sandy Disaster" (sole authored) will be published as Chapter 1 and "Hurricane Impacts on Education: Hurricane Katrina Versus Sandy" (co-authored with Ashraf Esmail) will be published as Chapter 8 in the edited volume, *Savage Sand and*

*Surf*. "Gun Violence as an Epidemiological Issue and Disaster" (co-authored with Ashraf Esmail) will be published as Chapter 8 in the edited volume *Gun Violence in American Society*. Eargle has also written the foreword for three other books: *Internet Identity Theft* by Kelly Gray and Ashraf Esmail; *Racial Disparity in Sentencing Outcomes* by Yolanda Johnson and Ashraf Esmail; and *Impact of Satisfaction of Life on Cognitive Functioning in Black Elder Adults* by Clifton Brown and Ashraf Esmail. These books will be published by University Press of America. Two co-authored presentations, "Immigration Laws through the Lens of Whiteness" and "Caught between the Frames" were delivered by Eargle at the American Society of Criminology conference. ... **DR. DAVID WHITE**, chair and associate professor and coordinator of political science, took a group of faculty members and students to Washington, D.C. for FMU's Academic Seminar, using a R.E.A.L. grant. Other faculty members on the trip included **DR. DEREK JOKISCH**, **DR. CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY**, **KAY PACKETT** and **DR. TABITHA WARTERS**. Student participants included Samuel Ankers, Tory Blakeslee, Asia Booker, Dorothy Brandenburg, Katlyn Brown, Erica Burgess, Zachary Fraley, Jessica Imbimbo, Colleen Kennedy, Jamal Lightbourne, Chaquez McCall, Ezekiel Shuler, Aaron Smith, Jadia Smith, Samuel Smoot, Gino Truncellito and Doris Tucker.

Guest speakers included Sarah Flocken, outreach and social media coordinator and Russ Choma, staff reporter for the Center for Responsive Politics; Betty Koed, associate historian of the U.S. Senate Historical Office; Courtney Titus, legislative director of the Office of Congressman Tom Rice; Adam Kovacevich, director of public policy for Google; Bruce Haynes, founding partner of Purple Strategies; Jonathan Martin, national political correspondent; Andre Jennings ('06), human resources analyst for the U.S. Department of



State; Patrice Bubar, chief of staff to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner William D. Magwood; Jimmy Williams, Blue Nation Review website/MSNBC contributor; Stacey Brayboy ('94), chief of staff for the U.S. Food and Nutrition Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**D**R. **KAREN FRIES**, assistant professor of education, had two articles published recently in the "National Head Start Association Dialog: The Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Childhood Field". They were: "Evaluation of the Effects of Read It Once Again across Two Groups of Students," and "Read It Once Again Instruction with Two Groups of Students." Additionally, an article by Fries entitled "The language of mathematics: The importance of teaching and learning mathematical vocabulary" has been accepted for publication in *Reading and Writing Quarterly*. ... The article, "Teaching Diversity to Preservice Teachers: Encouraging Self-Reflection and Awareness to Develop Successful Teaching Practices," was co-authored by **DR. KATHRYN HASELDEN**, coordinator of the Master of Education Learning Disabilities Program. The article was published in *Multicultural Learning and Teaching*. ... **DR. TAMMY PAWLOSKI**, director of the Center of Excellence, presented her paper "Teaching children of poverty: How poverty can change students and what teachers and schools can and must do" at the annual conference of the Association of Middle Level Educators (AMLE) in Minneapolis, Minn. Pawloski's "Creating choices for children of poverty: Change the experience, change the brain" was presented at the National Dropout Prevention Network's (NDPN) 25th Annual Conference in Atlanta, Ga. She also presented "Teaching children of poverty: Change the experience, change the brain" at the conference of the North Carolina Association of



## Just call her 'Dr. Gran'

### UNIVERSITY HONORS LUCY THROWER WITH HONORARY DEGREE

The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees honored the 45-year teaching career of one of the college's iconic professors this spring when it awarded Lucy Thrower an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities at a regular trustee meeting on campus.

Thrower is a founding member of the FMU faculty. She was a middle school mathematics teacher when the South Carolina Legislature commissioned Francis Marion College as an independent institution. When first-year enrollment at the school exceeded expectations, Thrower was recruited to fill a gap.

She's been filling it ever since, even after her official retirement in 1999. Thrower has continued to teach part-time since then.

University officials cited Thrower as one of the university's building blocks. FMU President Dr. L Fred Carter said during the degree ceremony that, "Many of us look at Lucy and say, 'That's the kind of professor that I've worked to try to be with my professional life.' I don't know that many of us acquire that standard, but Lucy has. She is simply the best there is."

Thrower, a founding member of FMU's faculty senate and its chapter of the American Association of University Professors and a recipient of the Charlene Wages Shared Governance Award in 2006, says she was thrilled by the honor.

But she says her four grandsons were thrilled even more.

They now call her 'Dr. Gran.'


Elementary Educators (NCAEE) in Greensboro, N.C. ...

**DR. SCOTT BROWN**, professor of geography, and a group of faculty and students traveled to Cuba where he taught a one-hour credit course (Geography 300) during the spring 2014 semester. Funded by a Ready to Experience Applied Learning (R.E.A.L.) grant, seven students and six faculty members were able to experience some aspects of Cuban culture. Other faculty included Gerald Carroway, Mica Hilson, Marie Devincenzo, Dawn Larsen and Matthew Sanderson. Students included Clarissa Chestnut, Chiquita Fox, Jonathan Hicks, Joshua Johnson,



EDWINS

Brittany McClain, Allison Trant and Melanie Ward. ... **DR. JO ANGELA EDWINS**, associate professor of English, was named the 2014 winner of

the 5th Annual Carrie McCray Nickens Fellow in poetry by the South Carolina Academy of Authors. Edwin's manuscript was chosen in a blind competition by this year's judge, poet Lavonne J. Adams. The fellowship in poetry was established in 2009 to support South Carolina poets whose work employs skilled verse composition and reflects a heightened awareness of the human condition. 

# Jokisch glowing over new apps

## FMU prof guides students in designing useful phone apps for radiation industry

BY TUCKER MITCHELL

**N**eed fast access to point source radiation calculations or the entire compendium of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations?

There is, as the saying goes, an App for that. And, it was created at Francis Marion University.

**DR. DEREK JOKISCH**, a health physics professor at FMU, and some of his students have been busy the past few years dreaming up and creating working apps – shorthand for applications that allow users of mobile digital devices (think smartphones and pads) quick access to special web portals – dealing with radiation. Most of the apps – four have been created and brought to market so far – are designed for professionals in the field of radiation sciences, especially health physics. But one, iRadiation, was designed with the general public in mind. It offers basic information on background radiation (it's everywhere) and offers a rough tool for calculating personal



Fluence



HotParticle



iRadiation



RadRegs

radiation exposure.

Jokisch encouraged his students to dive into the App world several years ago to give them a hands-on learning experience. He created a company, Health Physics Apps, LLC, and established a revenue-sharing agreement with the university. And there is some revenue. The Apps are relatively inexpensive – the most costly one, Fluence, sells for \$4.99 – but some Apps are downloaded thousands, even millions of times. That's not the expectation with Jokisch's health physics apps, geared as they are for a highly specialized audience, but all four have had some traffic. The iRadiation app, which is free, has been downloaded more than 1,200 times. Fluence, designed mostly for industry professionals, has been downloaded about 100 times around the world. It's been downloaded in 15 foreign countries on six continents. RadRegs and HotParticle are newer and have just hit the market.

It took almost a year to create each of the Apps. The students working on the

project received course credit and some very helpful experiential learning. All four have moved in the field. Joseph Cormel is studying the nuclear engineering



JOKISCH

graduate program at the University of Tennessee, Drake Brookins recently graduated with a masters in Medical Physics from Duke University and Tyler Cantrell is in the nuclear engineering graduate program at Texas A&M. Pratik Patel is working as iOS developer with Mobiquity Inc., a Gainesville, Fla.-based company that creates Apps for a variety of businesses, including Fortune 500 companies.

Fluence, another app that Jokisch produced with student programmers, who received course credit for their work, is a radiation-dose calculator that is designed to be a handy reference for students and professionals working in the nuclear sciences.

Jokisch says creating real Apps for the marketing place “was an intimidating experience when we first got started.

“To be able to bring something like that to fruition, it's a rewarding experience,” says Jokisch. “It was a big moment for the students when their apps went live and they had something published.”

*Tucker Mitchell is the Executive Director of Public Affairs at Francis Marion University.*





**Bryan Foxworth poses with his family after commencement.**



**Grad and .... Future grad? Grad Shakia Williams of Bennettsville and family in front of the Smith Center following FMU's Spring graduation. Family member, Quintex Moore, is getting ready for the future by trying his sister's customized mortar board.**



**Paden Capps was all smiles as he prepared to receive his degree.**

## **A GRADUATION VIEW**



**Mayor Stephen Wukela gives the commencement address to the spring class of 2014 at FMU.**



**The Spring 2014 Nursing Graduates**



# FMU once again 'Great College to Work For'

## FMU RECOGNIZED AS "2014 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR"

For the second straight year, Francis Marion University has been recognized as one of the Great Colleges to Work For® Honor Roll schools by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The results, released in *The Chronicle's* seventh annual report on the academic workplace, are based on a third party survey of FMU faculty and staff.

Francis Marion University was one of just 71 four-year colleges recognized by The Chronicle, and one of 30 four-year schools recognized as an Honor Roll college. Schools

are recognized as they receive satisfaction ratings of 70 percent or higher in any of the 12 categories. Honor Roll schools must receive high satisfaction ratings in at least seven of 12 categories.

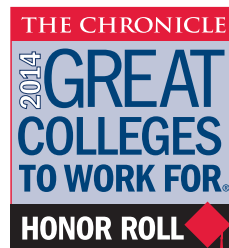
FMU received high marks in nine of the 12 categories, climbing in two categories since last year's survey. FMU was recognized in Collaborative Governance, Professional/Career Development Programs, Teaching Environment, Work/Life Balance, Confidence in Senior Leadership, Respect and Appreciation, Tenure Clarity and Process (faculty only), Job Satisfaction and Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship.

FMU President Dr. Fred Carter says the back-to-back recognitions

reflects a concerted effort to make the university a great place to work, which in turn, improves the overall quality of the institution.

"The reputation of this institution has been built on the work of this faculty and staff," says Carter. "And for the past decade or so, we have

attempted to develop compensation and support services that adequately demonstrate our appreciation for what they do. We are all proud of this national distinction."



## MARION MEDALLION HONORS LOCAL SERVICE

Three individuals were recognized for their significant contributions and service to the people of the Pee Dee area at the 2014 Marion Medallion awards ceremony on Feb. 27 at the FMU Performing Arts Center.

Medallions were presented to pastors Henry Badie Jr., and Clyde Odom of Florence and Henry Brunson of Latta. Badie and Odom have battled to create support and networks of assistance for the homeless and destitute in the Florence area. Brunson is the founder of Cooks for Christ, a grassroots non-profit that annually raises tens of thousands for worthy causes in the area.

FMU President Dr. Fred Carter said all three of the 2014 recipients have made "sustained and significant contributions" to the improvement of the Pee Dee Region and its people.

The Marion Medallion is a three-year-old award, sponsored and presented jointly by FMU and



PHOTO BY CHELSEA AVANT

## WINTER STORMS HIT FMU CAMPUS HARD

Nearly every area of the FMU campus was impacted by the winter storms that ripped through in February. The storm led to massive closings in the Pee Dee Region and FMU was no exception. From Feb. 12-14, the university canceled classes and campus activities due to the severity of the storms but on the heels of Friday, Feb. 14, FMU's Facilities Management crew began clean-up.

That clean-up effort involved

the clearing of limbs, trees and fixing leaks, says Ralph Davis, director of facilities management. In addition, the administration worked to restore the power as well. With an Open House event taking place that week, the crew had very little time to get the university back up and running. With the help of local contractors and his staff, Davis says, the university never missed a beat.



the Morning News of Florence. The medallions are awarded on or about Feb. 27—Francis Marion Day — every year. The medallion is, of course, named for General Francis Marion, the revolutionary war leader who led Patriot forces in the Pee Dee Region, and who is the namesake of FMU.

## FMU SPANISH STUDENTS USE SKILLS IN COMMUNITY

Dr. Wendy Caldwell Richardson and 18 of her Spanish 220 students are speaking to the needs of the community through service learning.

The work is part of the new Spanish for Health Care (Spanish 220) class at FMU.

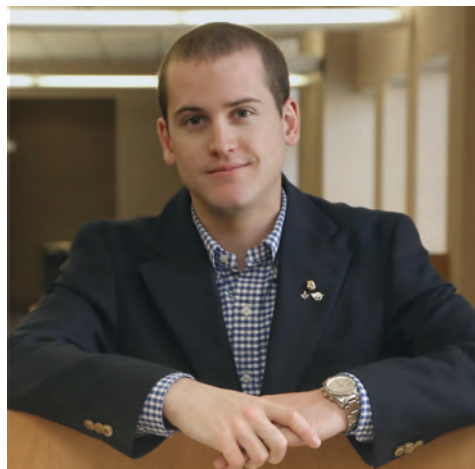
This year the group rephrased radiology signage at McLeod Regional Medical Center, translated brochures for the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault, developed health and hygiene songs for children and spread cheer to the elderly at Emeritus at Laurel Gardens.

Caldwell Richardson says that service-learning has a unique way of connecting a student's creativity and talents with the course content.

"When students are given the opportunity to take ownership of what they have learned through a practical application of the Spanish language, their experience blossoms into a creative process that cements their mastery of the material," says Caldwell Richardson. "Perhaps, more importantly, the community-service experience motivates them to remain engaged in both their studies and their community."

Students participating include Mary Beth Batchelor, Toriia Bolden, Pincquetta Brown, Clarissa Chestnut, Nichole Clark, Theresa Dargan, John Guest, D'Andrea Jones, Kiely Lockamy, Ashley Lowe, Carli Mapes, Christian McMillian, Kenya Outen, Timothy Prince, Shuvonta Smalls, Ashley Swanigan, Diamond Turner and Todd Wilson.

The students were placed into



## One More Year

**The Student Government Association recently held elections. R. Dustin James was unanimously re-elected to serve a second term as Francis Marion University's Student Body President.**

PHOTO BY: REBECCA J. DUCKER

groups based on their interests. One group corrected a translation on a sign leading into McLeod Regional Medical Center's x-ray area.

"When we learned from Dr. Caldwell that the Spanish translation on this sign in our radiology areas was incorrect, we were grateful for the students' assistance in ensuring its accuracy," says Dennis Nobles, associate director of Radiology.

Nichole Clark and Theresa Dargan, seniors in the class, said they learned the importance of human contact and communication during the course, especially when they stopped by Emeritus at Laurel Gardens Senior Living's Memory Care Unit. Their group was chosen to pay regular visits to Caldwell Richardson's former Spanish teacher, Maria Perry, who is 85 years old. Though she isn't able to recall many events or people, the one thing Perry does remember is her native language, Spanish, which she taught in the Florence community for many years. She joined in with the students talking, singing and rejoicing during their visits.

"This experience has taught us to get to know the stories of others through their language and through song," says Dargan. "She (Perry) is still a teacher at heart and she tolerates us and tests us at the same time. When we leave, we all feel lighter, brighter and we know more."

The students assigned to work at the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault said the exposure to agencies in the community has given them more cause to think about careers after graduation.

"Working with the Coalition has been eye-opening for me," says Clarissa Chestnut. "I know what I want to do after graduation. I want to help create healthy environments for people."

Amy Campbell, director of Volunteer and Community Relations at the Coalition, said there are lots of opportunities for the students to take part in addressing the needs of the Hispanic population. In addition to translating brochures, Caldwell Richardson's students also attended community events to distribute information to the Spanish speaking community.

"The work is never done and if we can partner with those who are able to speak the language and gain their trust, we can make a huge difference," said Campbell. "A start for the students has been their work on the brochures we use for intake."

Caldwell Richardson has also been instrumental in developing collaborative projects with local public schools, the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation Library and FMU's Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child to teach the Spanish language.



## FMU STUDENTS SERVE WILSON KIDS AS TUTORS

For Hannah Chaney, an elementary education major at FMU who was one of 13 students serving as tutor in a new partnership between Wilson High School and FMU's School of Education this year, the experience was all about seeing her "students" improve.

"When they (students) go from not being able to form a paragraph and not really wanting to be here to writing coherent essays and enjoying their time here, it is exciting for us," says Chaney.

The new program saw Chaney and company tutor high schoolers who were struggling to pass S.C.'s standard High School Assessment Program (HSAP) test. The HSAP is required for graduation.

The new program is called Helping Students Achieve Proficiency, or HSAP.

Dr. Erik Lowry, associate professor of education, administered HSAP through a grant provided through FMU's Ready to Experience Applied Learning (R.E.A.L.) program to fund the endeavor. Lowry credits FMU President Dr. Fred Carter, Dr. Ron Faulkenberry, the recently retired dean of the School of Education and Eric Robinson, principal of Wilson High School, for the idea. They saw, and quickly understood, the mutual benefits of the program.

"We had 13 tutors that go to Wilson and help students in Math

and English, many of whom are struggling with passing the HSAP exam or perhaps the end of course exam in algebra," says Lowry. "Our students in turn have an opportunity to be involved with both field-based teaching and community service."

Ashley Parks, a junior who was part of the contingent of tutors, has enjoyed tutoring since she was in high school. She says that the interaction with students, whether it be factoring trinomials or writing algebraic equations, is what keeps her coming back.

"Working with students has always been my passion," says Parks. "This age group (high school) is especially easy to work with because they realize the importance of what they are learning."

The FMU student tutors were screened carefully, completing applications and meeting with both Lowry and Patrice Holmes, Wilson's assistant principal. They were also asked to provide references and submit to a background screening.

Each FMU student receives up to a \$500 stipend per semester of service. Participation involved tutoring high school students for up to three days per week for several weeks during each semester. The sessions are for approximately one hour, but some tutors spent 2 to 3 hours a day at the school.

## FMU SID STAFF HONORED BY PBC

The FMU Department of Sports Information was honored with the inaugural Peach Belt Conference SID Staff of the Year award at the league's annual meetings in Hilton Head recently. Michael G. Hawkins, FMU's long-time associate athletic director for media relations and marketing, was on hand to accept the award.

"This is truly an honor to be recognized by one's peers," says Hawkins. "Our success this past year has been due in large part to the hard work of intern Jonathan Davidson and student worker David Crane, but also to the help of administrators, coaches, media center personnel, and other SIDs. Our profession is an inter-twined network of sharing and providing information, and our outward success is mostly dependent on media agencies of which we have no control. To receive this award, it says that we must be doing something right. It will make the trip to the car as the last one to leave the field or gym a little more enjoyable."

The FMU SID office instituted a number of new initiatives during the last year including production of 63 live video events and hundreds of videos on the department's YouTube channel. Additionally, the office launched an Instagram page, began the redesign process for [fmupatriots.com](http://fmupatriots.com) and produced weekly segments for baseball and softball.

FMU served as the host for four PBC Tournaments during the past year: volleyball, men's and women's tennis, and softball, providing full multi-camera live video coverage for volleyball and softball.

Working with the school's media center staff, FMU captured five of the eight PBC "Plays of the Month." The department also issued 128 sports releases and 241 game releases during the year to



40 media outlets.

Hawkins also assisted the PBC office by volunteering at the PBC men's and women's soccer championships and the NCAA Division II men's and women's soccer national championships, which were hosted by the conference.

Hawkins is completing his 29th year at FMU.

## FMU'S SNA COMPLETES SERVICE PROJECTS

FMU's Student Nurses Association (SNA) completed several recent community service projects. The SNA donated 86 lbs. of food and a cash gift to Florence Harvest Hope Food Bank for the holidays, donated cash and clothing closet items to the Felician Center in Kingstree and donated cold weather items to Florence Hope Health as part of the "Comfort for Cold" campaign. Vicki Martin, nursing instructor, advises the group. ...

## SENATE RE-ELECTS CHAIR

English Professor **DR. REBECCA**



**FLANNAGAN**

**FLANNAGAN** was re-elected by her peers to serve a third, one-year term as faculty chair. Flannagan came to FMU in 1995. She teaches American literature, poetry workshop, and introduction to literature, as well as all varieties of freshman composition. She won the FMU Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004 and the Charlene Wages Shared Governance Award in 2008. She and her husband Roy have one son, Wickham. ...

Florence attorney Jonathan Edwards was hired as FMU's new general counsel. Edwards, a Florence native and an FMU alum, is a graduate of the Charleston School of Law. He is an experienced criminal and civil litigator who worked at both the Parham Law

Firm, LLC of Florence, and at his own firm. Edwards received the B.S. in psychology from FMU in 2009. He has earned several honors and achievements for his pro bono work in Charleston and founded the Charleston School of Law Pee Dee Alumni Chapter. He is president of that group. He is also a member of the Florence Rotary Club. Edwards' wife Lee Ann is a kindergarten teacher at McLaurin Elementary School. ...

## FMU SELECTED AS NEW CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

Francis Marion University is set to tackle yet another issue facing the Pee Dee Region: college and career readiness. A grant from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will fund the formation of the Center of Excellence for College and Career Readiness to be housed at FMU.

When ready, the center will provide professional development to teachers throughout the state, will leverage and expand the work of the S.C. Course Alignment Project and will serve to coordinate and facilitate relationships among P-20 (pre-school – higher education) initiatives throughout the state.

FMU was one of four applicants for this annual \$250,000 grant and was chosen over Winthrop, University of South Carolina-Aiken, and Charleston Southern University. FMU English Professors Dr. Meredith Love-Steinmetz and Dr. Matt Nelson will serve as co-directors of the center and will work with other FMU professors, and faculty members from universities, technical colleges, and middle and high schools from throughout the state to operate it.

## FMU LAUNCHING INNOVATIVE NEW MBA PROGRAM

Francis Marion University's new Master of Business Administration degree program is set to begin in the fall and is intended to meet the changing needs of students, employers and the community.

FMU's new MBA track utilizes technology to enhance instruction by the university's distinguished business faculty, and to accelerate the matriculation time. Some students will be able to earn their MBAs in just 15 months.

The new program is designed to offer students unprecedented freedom and convenience. Students will meet a maximum of three Saturdays per semester. The mix of face-to-face and online instruction will give students valuable exposure to faculty and fellow students while offering greater flexibility to manage career and family needs. MBA students at FMU will be able to earn a critical graduate degree without putting their lives on hold.

FMU's new approach to the MBA is the result of liberations by a committee of FMU School of Business faculty, including Drs. Kay Lawrimore Belanger, Mike Hughes, Ben Kyer, Kay Poston, Elizabeth Sharer and Allen Smith.

Lawrimore Belanger, director of the program, says the committee was responding to requests made by employers in the community for FMU to provide the high-quality instruction and experience that's long been part of its MBA program, with greater convenience for employees.

"FMU is always seeking to meet the needs of our students and the business community. The changes in the MBA program were implemented by the faculty after discussions with alumni, business leaders and current students," says Lawrimore Belanger. "We believe these changes reflect innovation within our program and maintains academic excellence."

Each professor designs a program of study for the best delivery of the course, with the goal of producing

## ON CAMPUS

stimulating, interactive learning and creating a strong instructor-student relationship.

Students will be taught two courses each semester for four consecutive semesters, including two summer terms. FMU's business faculty is known for both its academic excellence and its expansive work experience.

Upon completion of the new MBA program, Lawrimore Belanger says graduates will be able to more effectively integrate international perspectives into business solutions, while also solving managerial problems within the context of a strategic plan that integrates all aspects of business. Students with diverse undergraduate degrees such as math, nursing, biology, engineering, sociology and business are accepted.

The MBA degree is one that broadens perspectives, says Cory Andrews, a 2013 graduate of FMU's MBA program.

"No matter what profession one had prior to the MBA, you develop a more holistic approach. You are able to discern and pick up on key facts that would have never even entered your thoughts before," says Andrews. "It truly is an entirely different mindset. You shift from a narrow perspective to a broader approach for problem solving."

## NEW EDUCATION RATES FMU A 'BEST VALUE'

A new non-profit organization aimed at helping parents and students make wise career and educational choices, has ranked Francis Marion University as one



of the nation's best college values.

Education to Career, a California-based non-profit, ranked FMU 35th among

1,222 U.S. colleges and universities with at least 1,000 students. The rankings rate a college's ability to enhance the career earning abilities of its students, and compare that

metric to the overall cost of attendance.

ETC was founded in 2013 by Michael Havis, a retired industrial designer and marketer. The organization operates a website with online tools

for students and parents (www.educatetocareer.org). It is funded by donations and by clients who pay for research. Students and parents can obtain more detailed information on specific schools through ETC for a small fee.

ETC's Havis says FMU's rank shows the school is serving the real needs of its students.


FMU President Dr. L. Fred Carter calls the new ranking "pleasing" because it validates FMU's long-standing educational mission to the people of the Pee Dee and the state of South Carolina.

"Francis Marion University was founded to provide educational opportunities for the people of this region and our state," says Carter. "We do that by providing our students with a fine liberal arts foundation and strong disciplinary programs. This

ranking further validates the success of our programs and the capabilities of our extraordinary faculty."

The rankings are based on employment and salary information prepared for ETC by Jobs Search Intelligence, LLC, a San Diego analytics and data collection firm that provides services to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), among others.

JSI research team includes former managers and analysts at the Rand Corporation, the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Department of Labor. Using data from more than 50 government databases, some with highly restricted access, it developed a system for measuring the outcome of college educations.

The ranking system JSI developed for ETC compares the projected salary of graduates in a particular field with their actual salaries. The system also factors in the employment rate of a college's graduates, and the student loan default rate. 



## NEW CONCERT SHELL UNVEILED AT AMPHITHEATER

The Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center's BB&T Amphitheater stage cover was completed in June.

"The cover is needed primarily to provide shelter from the elements for performers," says Ralph Davis, director of facilities management. "At the same time, it also offers acoustical value, structure and visibility."

The pre-engineered steel frame has a standing seam metal roof and is 56 feet across with a depth of 25 feet. There is a steel-framed Trellis on both sides of the cover.

The BB&T Amphitheater is located on the Palmetto Street side of the FMU Performing Arts Center. Steps lead down to a semicircular outdoor seating area that can accommodate about 200 people while an upper area can accommodate about 300 people. Concrete pavers cover the floor in the seating area. A 20 x 40 ft. stage is at the end of the amphitheater near the Academic Wing of the PAC. The rest of the amphitheater is surrounded by magnolia trees.





Travis Tritt performed to a sold out crowd at the FMU Performing Arts Center in February.



Hannah Fazio (R) and other students took a much needed pre-exam study break on the mudslide at Mess Fest, sponsored by Baptist Collegiate Ministries.



FMU students battle it out during the tug-of-war on Field Day.

## campus VIEW



The Indigo Girls, along with the Florence Symphony Orchestra, performed at the FMU Performing Arts Center in June.



Lucy Pike poses with her butterfly wings at the 2014 Arts International Festival.





**F**rancis Marion University senior volleyball player Paige Perreault will soon make the move from handling serves to handling vital organs.

The Kankakee, Illi. native will be working with Dr. Frank Spinale, a cardiothoracic surgeon at the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity," Perreault explains. "I will be studying congestive heart failure in pigs."

Perreault earned her undergraduate degree in biology (pre-med) at commencement exercises in May. This fall, she will begin a year-long research (assistant) position at the University of South Carolina's Medical School in Columbia that allows future medical students to do further study and gain valuable experience prior to entering medical school.

As a student-athlete, Perreault's time to undertake academic research was very restricted.

"With afternoon practices and evening matches, not to mention year-long conditioning, it is very difficult to work in the research activities," she says. "This position will allow me to gain hands-on experience that should be invaluable to my future career plans. Some of the work I will be doing

## *Perreault looks to dig up medical career*

**BUMP, SET, STUDY**

BY MICHAEL HAWKINS

is similar to what first- and second-year medical students' experience."

As far as what exact medical field she will enter, Perreault is still uncertain. "I am still examining all my options. Someone told me 'make sure you love what field you choose,' so I am taking my time. I will apply for med school soon and hopefully find out this December where I will enroll for the 2015-16 school year."

When asked about her time at FMU, Perreault said that FMU has prepared her for this next step in life: academically, socially, and culturally.

"The academics here are structured in a way that



helps one succeed, although you still have to put in the hard work. The volleyball part of my time here has given me a whole new family, and the opportunity to hone my time management skills," says Perreault. "I came from 14 hours away in Illinois not knowing anyone. But I have met so many amazing people and have basically assimilated into being a Southerner, although I still drink unsweetened tea."

She says her time at FMU has broadened her horizons and given her many great life experiences."

On the volleyball court this past season, Perreault started 24 of 30 matches and was fourth on the team in digs (189) and fifth in service aces (22).

A four-year returning letter winner, Perreault appeared in 120 career matches (400 games) and tallied 621 digs, 306 kills, 64 service aces, and 55 total blocks. She garnered PBC All-Academic Team honors in each of the past three seasons.

She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society, Chi Alpha Sigma national college athlete honor society, Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honor Society, and Tri-Beta Honor Society. She also held membership in ARS Medica, the FMU Chemistry Club, and the American Chemical Society. She's also a four-time selection to the Peach Belt Conference Presidential Honor Roll.

Patriot volleyball coach Paul MacDonald called Perreault, "a model student-athlete. Paige was able to balance both academics and athletics, while succeeding at both. She has been a valuable member of our program for the past four years as well as a great ambassador for the university. I very much look forward to seeing Paige succeed in the medical field."

Perreault attended Clifton Central High School and also played with the Ultimate Volleyball Club. 🏐

*MICHAEL HAWKINS ('85) is the associate athletic director for sports information and marketing at FMU.*

# Sparks looks to ignite Patriots

Francis Marion University has a new women's basketball coach, but he's not new to coaching.

And he's pretty familiar with FMU, too.

Former Columbus State Coach Jay Sparks was introduced as FMU's new coach earlier this spring. The veteran Peach Belt Conference coach won nearly 400 games during his 20-year coaching career, took two teams to the Division II Final Four and ... beat another pretty good Peach Belt program – FMU – 22 times.

FMU Athletic Director Murray Hartzler says Sparks "stood out as a person who could create a winning atmosphere immediately.

"His experience and knowledge of basketball in the Southeast give us instant credibility heading into the 2014-15 season," says Hartzler.

Sparks replaces Kate Glusko who coached for four seasons at FMU.

Though he has a lengthy coaching resume, Sparks comes to FMU following a six-year stint as the athletic director at CSU. He left the coaching bench in 2009.

"I am very excited about this new opportunity, and I want to thank (FMU president) Dr. (Fred) Carter and Murray for the chance to return to the job I love most – coaching," Sparks said.

"I am proud of what we accomplished at Columbus State University during my time as athletic director, but this chance to return to the sidelines as a collegiate coach was something I could not pass up," says Sparks. "I missed the highs of walking the sideline and directing student-athletes on the court."

Sparks started the Columbus State women's basketball program in 1989 and led the program to national notoriety. It only took him only five seasons to produce a 20-win squad in 1993-94. His 2000-01 team went 31-1 and reached the NCAA Division II Final Four (for the second straight year). Sparks took the Lady Cougars to the NCAA Division II national tournament six times.

His 20-year career record is 367-231. He's had ten, 20-win seasons and earned

PBC Coach of the Year recognition three times (1994, 1998, 2001). His record includes a 22-18 mark against FMU, a top CSU rival during march of Sparks' career.

In fact, Sparks says it was the opportunity to coach at FMU, as opposed to just returning to coaching, that helped lure him back.

"The women's basketball program at Francis Marion is as rich in tradition as any in the country, at any level," says Sparks. "From Sylvia Hatchell to Pearl Moore, Wes Moore to Heather Macy, this is a storied program that I hope to return to national prominence."

The Francis Marion program has an all-time record of 803-407 in 41 seasons and ranks eighth among all NCAA Division II institutions in total wins. The Patriots have captured two national championships, the 1982 AIAW Division II title and the 1986 NAIA title, and also advanced to the 1998 NCAA Division II Final Four. The program made five straight NCAA Division II Tournament appearances between 1997 and 2001, and four consecutive appearances between 2008 and 2011.

Francis Marion lost three seniors from this past season's 13-13 squad that failed to qualify for the PBC Tournament for the third consecutive year. The Patriots were 7-12 in Peach Belt Conference play, placing fifth in the East Division standings.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Sparks earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he played for four seasons on the baseball team. During his career, he earned Freshman Pitcher of the Year accolades, threw two no-hitters, was voted team captain twice, and received All-Tennessee Team honors as a senior.

Sparks has been married to his wife Cindy for 31 years, and they have two adult children.



COACH JAY SPARKS



## GOLF

**Record: Tournament Play**  
**NCAA Division I** Independents

**Top performers/post-season honors:** Junior Lukas Crisp led the Patriots with a 74.97 stroke average, including six sub-par rounds and three Top-15 finishes. He placed second at the final event of the season, the Wolfpack Spring Open, hosted by N.C. State University. Sophomore Will Godfrey finished fourth with a 54-hole total of 231 in the men's individual invitational of the 28th PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship.

**Notable:** As a team, the Patriots registered seven Top-10 finishes in 11 tournaments, including a season-best tie for fourth place at the SpringHill Suites Intercollegiate Tournament last September. FMU recorded a 299.39 stroke average.



## TENNIS

**Women's Tennis**

**Record: 15-7**

**Peach Belt Finish:** 9-4  
(T-4th)

**Top performers/post-season honors:** Freshman Samantha Koelliker earned first-team All-Conference honors after posting a 16-2 record at No.1 singles, while junior Julia Graf and sophomore Nora Westbye garnered second-team All-PBC recognition in doubles. Graf and Westbye ranked 18th nationally among NCAA Division II doubles teams at the end of the season as they recorded a 15-7 mark.

**Notable:** The Patriots were

ranked 24th in the final ITA national poll. FMU earned its eighth NCAA national tournament bid in the past nine seasons, and advanced to the regional title match for the eighth time in that span. FMU head coach Garth Thomson registered his 300th career coaching win on April 16. Francis Marion earned the 2014 PBC Team Sportsmanship Award for women's tennis.

**Men's Tennis**

**Record: 7-9**

**Peach Belt Finish:** 4-6  
(T-6th)

**Top performers/post-season honors:** Freshman Richard Ashford earned second-team All-Conference honors and the PBC Freshman of the Year award after posting a 13-2 singles record. He was also selected as the Southeast Region's ITA Rookie of the Year, and ranked 23rd nationally among NCAA Division II singles players at the end of the season. Senior Tim Ruepke and juniors Eimon Heywood, Luke Bateup, and Marius Wahler were all named to the PBC Men's Tennis All-Academic Team.

**Notable:** The Patriots were ranked 31st in the final ITA national poll. FMU head coach Garth Thomson registered his 300th career coaching win on Feb. 6.



## SOFTBALL

**Record: 23-28**

**Peach Belt Finish:** 9-13  
(T-7th)

**Top performers/post-season honors:** Senior shortstop Kristie Hanewinckel

(.362 average, 4 HR, 27 RBI) earned first-team All-Conference honors, while senior right-handed pitcher Taylor Luff (13-16, 2.24 ERA) and junior first baseman Ashley Burney (.273, 11 HR, 34 RBI) garnered second-team accolades. Luff set a school season record with 279 strikeouts, while becoming the first Patriot to throw four no-hitters in one season. Senior outfielder Olivia Zielinski was named to the PBC All-Academic Softball Team for the second consecutive year.

**Notable:** FMU head coach Stacey Vallee recorded her 300th career coaching win on March 23. FMU served as the host for the 2014 Peach Belt Conference Tournament.



## BASEBALL

**Record 28-22**

**Peach Belt Finish:** 12-17  
(9th)

**Top performers/post-season honors:** Senior shortstop Michael Wilson (.396, 7 HR, 47 RBI) and senior right-handed pitcher Jeffrey Stoner (2-3, 7 saves, 1.85 ERA) both earned All-Conference and All-Region honors. Senior DH Dalton Gress (.261, 3 HR, 23 RBI, 3.979 GPA) was named an Academic All-American. Gress and sophomore right-handed pitcher Chance DuCharme were named to the PBC All-Academic Baseball Team. Senior center fielder Isaac Davenport earned a Gold Glove award for the Southeast Region.

**Notable:** FMU received the 2014 PBC Team Sportsmanship Award for

baseball. Head coach Art Inabinet and members of the team participated in a national award-winning community service project call "Dads in the Dugout."



## BASKETBALL

**Men's Basketball**

**Record: 12-15**

**Peach Belt Finish: 8-11 (4th East Division)**

**Top performers/post-season honors:** Graduate student Evrik Gary (20.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.1 apg) earned All-Conference and All-Region recognition. Gary finished second on the FMU career scoring list with 1,787 points and fourth all-time in Peach Belt history. He later signed a professional contract to play in Luxembourg.

**Notable:** The Patriots upset 18th-ranked Georgia Southwestern on the road Jan. 12, and nearly upset 17th-ranked Montevallo in the opening round of the PBC Tournament.

**Women's Basketball**

**Record 13-13**

**Peach Belt Finish:** 7-12  
(T-4th East Division)

**Top performers/post-season honors:** Junior guard Brianna Robinson (10.4 ppg, 4.7 apg, 3.5 rpg) was named the squad's most valuable player. Senior forward Dee Gray was named to the PBC All-Academic Women's Basketball Team.

**Notable:** Jay Sparks was named the new head coach, the 12th in the storied history of the Patriot program.



## homecoming 2014 VIEW



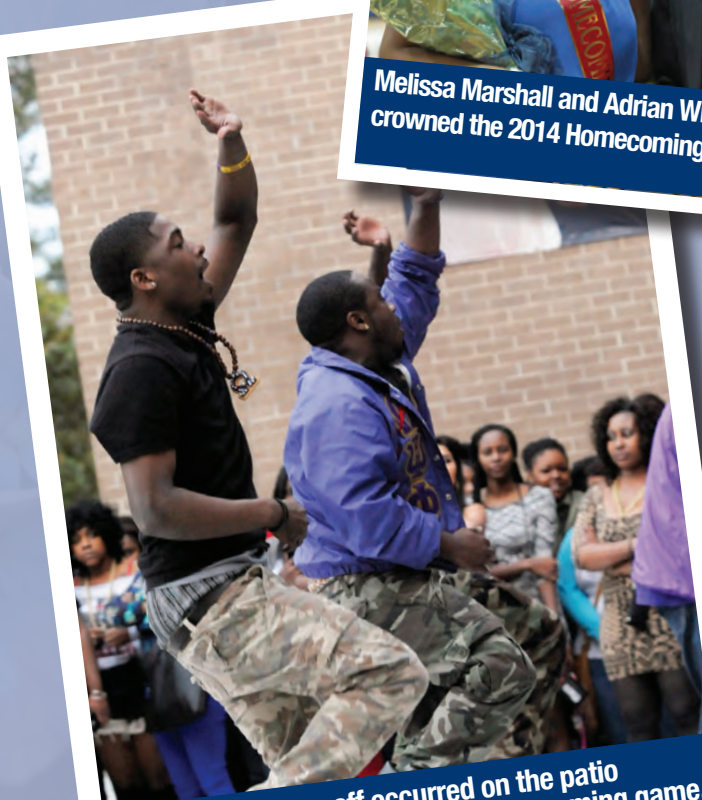
TKE Brothers: Anthony Gavalas, Brandon Turner and Eric Bittner were all decked out!



Coach Gary Edwards stirred up the Patriots during a timeout.



Melissa Marshall and Adrian Wilkins were crowned the 2014 Homecoming King & Queen.



An impromptu step off occurred on the patio outside the UC after the men's homecoming game.





**Glenn Odom**



**Anita Brown**



**Jeff Helton**



**Jule E. Eldridge III**

## Nineteen **70s**

**Debbie Wall ('72)** is serving on the South Carolina Senior Sports Classic board for 2014.

**Glenn Odom ('75)** joined the law firm of McGowan Rogers in January 2014.

**Julian Young ('76, '09)** received the John W. Baker Distinguished Service Award from the Florence Regional Arts Alliance for his efforts to enhance the Pee Dee arts community.

the annual elections held in January 2014.

**Marlene Williams ('82)** was awarded the Out of the Classroom Educator Award at the FMU School of Education Alumni Awards event.

**Ken Jackson ('84)** was named the 2013 South Carolina Realtor of the Year.

**Anita Brown ('85)** was awarded the Professional Industry Award in Natural and Behavioral Sciences during the

**Kenny Foster ('89)** was recently selected as the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year by Tyro Elementary School in Lexington, NC, where she is a librarian.

## Nineteen **90s**

**Pamela Fuller ('90)** graduated in December 2013 with a BS degree in Political Science from FMU.

**Garth Thompson ('91, '97)** received his 300th win as coach of the FMU Men's and Women's Tennis Teams in April 2014.

**Renee Woodberry ('91)** was named Alumni Volunteer of the Year during the 2014 Alumni Awards Ceremony at FMU.

**Jeff Helton ('93)** was awarded the Professional Industry Award in Business and Industry during the 2014 Alumni Awards Ceremony at FMU.

**Elaine Smith ('93)** was awarded Marion District Teacher of the Year for 2014.

**Dempsey Tallon III ('94)** and Leslie Cooper were married in September 2013.

**Rob Ardis ('98)** competed in the 2014 annual Dancing with the Stars Competition for The School Foundation in Florence.

**Jule E. Eldridge III ('99)** received a promotion as Sr. Vice President-Investments at Wells

Fargo.

**Shanta Mungin ('99)** graduated in December 2013 with a BA degree in English-Professional Writing from FMU.

**Traci Stokes ('99)** graduated in December 2013 with a BSN degree in Nursing from FMU.

## Two **Thousands**

**Laronda Anitra Johnson-Shaw ('00)** graduated May 2014 with a Master's of Education degree from FMU.

**Brent Tiller's ('00)** New York Butcher Shoppe has been renamed Block and Vino.

**Nicholas Lewis ('01)** was sworn in as a municipal judge in Florence in January 2014.

**Tricia Robinson ('01)** graduated in December 2013 with a BSN degree in Nursing from FMU. Tricia was also named 2014 Nurse of the Year at Carolinas Hospital System in May 2014.

**Amanda Strickland ('02)** and Harry Allen IV were married in October 2013.

**April Coe ('03)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's in Education from FMU.

**Jamilah Eaddy-Campbell ('04)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master of Education

## CLASS NOTES

**Tim Norwood ('78)** was named FMU Outstanding Alumnus.

## Nineteen **80s**

**Fran Gray ('80)** announced an additional location for Roney's Frame Shop and the acquisition of Kolor Quick in Florence.

**Johnny Harrison ('80)** was inducted into the North Augusta Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2014.

**Carol Holliday-Schweitz ('81)** received the Administrator Award at the FMU 2014 School of Education Alumni Awards event.

**Barry Koon ('82)** was elected Potentate of Hejaz Shriners at

2014 Alumni Awards ceremony at FMU.

**Charles Ross Berry ('87)** was awarded the Professional Industry Award in Medical and Health Sciences during the 2014 Alumni Awards ceremony at FMU. Berry accepted a position with First Coast Independent Physicians Association and First Coast Vascular in Jacksonville, Fl.

**Eunice Rabon ('88)** joined the FMU staff as a part-time teaching assistant in nursing as of January 2014.

**Lisa Rivers ('88)** was inducted into the Lewisville High School Basketball Hall of Fame.





**Linward Edwards II**

degree from FMU.

**Linward Edwards II ('04)** was the keynote speaker for the 13th annual AAFSC scholarship gala in February 2014.

**JoAnn Mack ('04)** programmer analyst, was named Carolinas Hospital 2013 Employee of the Year. This award is the highest honor bestowed on a hospital employee each year.

**James Brown ('05)** and **Deona Davis ('05)**, founded Coherent Marketing in Greenville and Charlotte. CMG is a full service marketing firm with more than 25 years of expertise. Brown is a former FMU Student Government Association President and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity incorporated. Davis is a former Student Government Association student body representative and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority incorporated.

**Felicia Chambers ('05)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Business Administration from FMU.

**SC Rep. Heather Ammons Crawford ('05)** was named the Benjamin Wall Ingram III Young Alumnus in February 2014. She has filed for re-election to District 68. Crawford has served the people of Horry County in the General Assembly since July



**Heather Ammons Crawford**

2012.

**Lauren Dorton ('05)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Education from FMU.

**Maurice Grant ('05)** was added to the roster for the Florence Vipers basketball team in December 2013.

**Lindsey Griffin ('05)** and Johnathan Adams were married in November 2013.

**Jessica Hatcher ('05)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Education from FMU.

**Roderick Brown ('06)** was featured at the Francis Marion Winter Band Concert on February 2014.

**Tara Corbett ('06)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Clinical/Counseling Psychology from FMU.

**Markesha Dean ('06)** graduated in December 2013 with a degree in International Studies from FMU.

**Tara Jackson ('06)** graduated in December 2013 with a degree in Nursing from FMU.

**Donald Lloyd II ('06)** was awarded the FMU School of Business Outstanding Alumnus Award in February 2014.



**Markesha Dean**

**Kathryn McLeod ('06)** graduated in December 2013 with a BSN degree in Nursing from FMU.

**Roberta Olmstead ('06)** received the Veteran Educator Award at the School of Education Alumni Awards at FMU in February 2014.

**Breezi Parker ('06)** graduated in December 2013 with a BSN degree in Nursing from FMU.

**Meg Temple ('06)** was named The CARE House of the Pee Dee's Executive Director in 2014.

**Jason Bracey ('07)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Education from FMU.

**Steven Andrew Creek ('07)** received a Master of Business Administration Degree in May 2014 at FMU.

**Wesley Jacobs ('07)** graduated in December 2013 with a degree in Nursing from FMU.

**Frank David Skipper III ('07)** received a Master's degree in Business Administration in May 2014 at FMU.

**Sarah Carmichael ('08)** and Paul Myers were married in October 2013.



**Allen-Walker**

**Allyson O'Steen Scott ('08)** will lead her father's accounting firm, O'Steen's Tax & Accounting, that he opened in 1970 in Florence, SC.

**Katie Wyllie Wilcox ('08)** joined Pee Dee Electric Cooperative as a Business Development Representative in 2014.

**Tiffany Allen ('09)** and DeQuincey Walker Jr. were married in April 2014.

**Donna Creel ('09)** was named Florence District Two's Teacher of the Year for 2014.

**Hayley Douglas ('09)** and **Riley Holt ('11)** were married in November 2013.

**Jonathan Edwards ('09)** joined FMU as general counsel in February 2014.

**Brittany Regina Mile ('09)** and Evan Lexworth Hanna were married in May 2014.

**Lauren Stanton ('09, '13)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Business Administration from FMU. Lauren joined the Florence County Economic Development Partnership as Membership and Industry Relations Manager in February 2014.

**Caroline Watts ('09, '13)** and Jon Watts were married in



**Mile-Hanna**

April 2012 in Camden, SC. She graduated in December 2013 with a Master's in Education in IA and has been the Director of Teacher Licensure for the FMU School of Education since June 2011.

**Whitnie Zacharias ('09)** was promoted to Assistant Director of Admissions at Miller-Motte Technical College in Conway, SC.

## Two Thousand **10**s

**Laurel Ammons ('10)** and **James Hayes** were married in April 2014.

**Joseph Avant ('10)** and Emily Handley were married in March 2014.

**Haley Bethea ('10)** graduated in December of 2013 with a BSN degree in Nursing from FMU.

**Matthew Cote ('10)** and **Lindsey McInville ('10)** were married on April 12, 2014.

**John Brown Jr. ('10)** graduated in December 2013 with a BS degree in Biology from FMU.

**Emily Handley ('10)** and Joseph Avant were married in March 2014.

**Lindsey McInville ('10)** and **Matthew Cote ('10)** were married on April 12, 2014.

**Meghan McLamb ('10)** and



**Whittney Goodwin**

**Ronald Boney ('11)** were married in November 2013.

**Kristin Reynolds ('10)** and Justin Poston were married in April 2014.

**Gary Sanders ('10)** graduated in December 2013 with a BSN degree in Nursing from FMU.

**Ronald Boney ('11)** and **Meghan McLamb ('10)** were married in November 2013.

**Lindsay S. Buchanan ('11)** accepted the position of Digital and Social Media Marketing Specialist at ESAB Welding & Cutting Products.

**Kayla Duncan ('11)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Clinical/Counseling Psychology from FMU.

**Autumn Durante ('11)** and Eric Collins were married in October 2013.

**Whittney Godwin ('11)** was recognized as the recipient of the Joseph G. Sylvester Award at McLeod Regional Medical Center in October 2013.

**Kelsi Harper ('11)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Clinical/Counseling Psychology from FMU.

**Riley Holt ('11)** and **Hayley Douglas ('09)** were married in



**Geddings-White**

November 2013.

**Caroline Moody ('11)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Business Administration from FMU.

**Abbie Shelley ('11)** joined FMU as a teaching assistant in Nursing January 2014.

**Aubry Allen Stegall ('11)** received a Master's degree in Education in May 2014 at FMU.

**Benjamin Lee Timmons ('11)** and Kristen Nicole Sublette were married in June 2014.

**Magdalena Alistar ('12)** received a Master's degree in Specialist in School Psychology in May 2014 at FMU.

**Rakeyta Benjamin ('12)** graduated in December 2013 with a Master's degree in Psychology from FMU.

**Drake Brookins ('12)** recently graduated with a masters in Medical Physics from Duke



**Douglas-Holt**

University.

**Kimberley Gainey ('12)** received a Master's degree in Specialist in School Psychology in May 2014 at FMU.

**Rachel Geddings ('12)** and Brain White were married in November 2013.

**Kayla Marie Hall ('09, '12)** received a Master's degree in Specialist in School Psychology in May 2014 at FMU.

**Margaret Elizabeth Haigler ('12)** and **Harry Edward Shuler Jr. ('12)** were married in June 2014.

**Amber Hekman ('12)** was awarded the Novice Educator Award in the School of Education Alumni Awards from FMU in February 2014.

**April Michelle Hyatt ('11, '12)** received a Master's degree in School Psychology in May 2014 at FMU.

## LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Hey Patriot, please share your latest achievements and events by submitting information online to The View at [www.fmarion.edu/alumni](http://www.fmarion.edu/alumni) or send a note to [jyoung@fmarion.edu](mailto:jyoung@fmarion.edu).

By submitting, you consent for the information to be published in *The View* magazine.





**Wheeler-Taylor**



**Lee - Matthews**



**Stanton - Welsh**



**Dr. Ronald Miller**

**Courtney Lee Matthews ('12)** received a Master's degree in School Psychology in May 2014 at FMU.

**Shelvia V. Maynard ('12)** received a Master's degree in School Psychology in May 2014 at FMU.

**Harry Edward Shuler Jr. ('12)** and **Margaret Elizabeth Haigler ('12)** were married in June 2014.

**Tiffany Thomas ('12)** held a ceramics class at the Local Market in Lake City, SC in April 2014.

**Alison Wheeler ('12)** and **Justin Taylor** were married in September 2013.

**Armand Broady ('13)** was the play-by-play broadcaster for Coker College's basketball & baseball 2013-2014 season.

**Octavia Brooks ('13)** will serve as a Quartermaster Platoon Leader in Company A of the 351st Aviation Support Battalion in Hartsville.

**Paulo De Guzman ('13)** was accepted into the Davao Medical School Foundation as a student in February 2014.

**Deon Evans ('13)** was commissioned as platoon leader in the 1182nd Deployment and Distribution

Support Battalion in December 2013.

**Abby Lee ('13)** and **James Matthews** were married in December 2013.

**Brittini Dianne Stanton ('13)** and **David Burton Welsh, Jr.** were married in March 2014.

## Friends & Faculty

**William J. Coughlin**, who traversed four continents as a foreign correspondent before guiding a 10,000-circulation North Carolina newspaper to a Pulitzer Prize for its investigation into cancer-causing chemicals in the municipal water supply, died May 8 at a hospice in Bolivia, N.C. He was 91. Coughlin taught journalism at FMU in the 1990's.

**Dr. Lynn Croshaw** has been inducted into the SC Lions Hall of Fame for his exemplary humanitarian service in the local community, state and nation over a sustained period of time. Croshaw taught at FMC for 36 years.

**Dr. Ronald Miller** was recently inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa Society at FMU and the Florence Rotary Club.

**W.C. Stanton**, Board of Trustees member since 1994 and dear friend to Francis Marion University, passed away on April 7th, 2014.

**Dr. Beverly Spears** has written two books, *Mineral Springs Road 1940s* and *County*. *Mineral Springs Road 1940s* is a collection of reflections on childhood memories of growing up on her grandfather's farm. *County* is a similar collection about life growing up as a teenager in Darlington County during the 1950s. Spears taught English and Mass Communications at FMU from 1970-1998.



## Birth of a Patriot

*The FMU family grows on a regular basis. Here's a look at some recent additions:*

**Ross ('99) and Ashley Clay ('09) Wise** welcomed their daughter, **Payton**, on May 13, 2014.

**Hughes ('09) and Heather Frick ('09) Page** welcomed their son, **Oliver Paul Page**, on October 9, 2013.

**Jonathan ('08) and Lindsay McClary ('06) Sturkie** welcomed their daughter, **Mackenzie Rose Sturkie**, on October 11, 2013.

**Ashley ('07) and Paul Jacobs** welcomed their son, **River**

**Morgan Jacobs**, on November 29, 2013.

**Nikki Milligan ('13) and James Hardesty** welcomed their son, **Zander Allen Hardesty**, on December 15, 2013.

**Anna Myers Shirley ('04)** and her husband welcomed their daughter, **Kaylen**, in March 2014.

**Holly Johnson ('13) and Terrell Floyd** welcomed their son, **Eli William Floyd**, on May 14, 2014.

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REAR  
VIEW

Remembering FMU's Past ♦ Circa 1990

## Greek Games

Two brothers from Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity speed across some campus turf during a wheelbarrow race, circa 1990. That particular fraternity is no longer in existence at FMU, but the Greek spirit lives on.